

Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

October 2018

In this month's newsletter, you'll find the regular updates on our activities, from learning and teaching achievements, new grants and publications, to the conferences and outreach events we've been part of.

To keep up to date with the latest news from the team as it happens, follow us on Twitter [@HWPsych](#) or find us on [Facebook](#).

Links: [Social Sciences](#) | [Psychology](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

The newsletter displays best on tablets (PDF attached also).



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Halfway there...

It's hard to believe, but we're just over halfway through the first semester of teaching for the 2018/19 academic year. For all our students, do keep up the good work, and if you have any questions remember to speak to your lecturers or Personal Tutor as soon as possible.

Alongside the regular teaching activities, the team continue to be involved in a range of other events and you can read more about those below. In addition, you'll be introduced to the more members of the team in our second "Meet the team" section, and the Class Reps in "Student voice".

Forthcoming events

Research Seminars/Events

- Students Research in a Flash

24 October, EM244

[Details](#)

- Simon Cox (UoE)

31 October, EM244

[Abstract](#) | [Speaker profile](#)

- PhD Students Research in a Flash

7 November, EM244

[Details](#)

Full Psychology Research

Seminar details are available on [Facebook](#).

Latest publications

Craig, M., Ottaway, G. & Dewar M. (in press). Rest on it: Awake quiescence facilitates insight. *Cortex*. doi: [10.1016/j.cortex.2018.09.009](#)



Our latest publications are listed here, but you can find a full list via the [Heriot-Watt Research Portal](#).

Student voice

In "Student voice", we hear from our students. Every contribution is different, so if you have something you'd like to share, get in touch with [Alan Gow](#). This month, we hear from the Psychology Class Reps and School Officer about their roles.

Class Reps: The main role of the Class Reps is to gather students' opinions on courses as well as their university experience, which is then passed onto the School Officer and the Year Coordinators. They ensure that they present an impartial opinion, rather than a personal view. They are also responsible for signposting students to the appropriate person/service if any non-academic issues are brought forward. They attend regular meetings with their School Officer and respective Year Coordinators.

They try their very best to make sure all issues are taken forward and a resolution is achieved.

The Class Reps are, for 1st Year: Cassie Davies, Emma Juvik and Lucy Wilson;

2nd Year: Eliska Petrasova and Kimberley Wylie;

3rd Year: Connor Courtney, Megan Dawson, Amanda Kilfeather and Jenny Panton;

and 4th Year: Calum Anderson and Catriona Maidens.

School Officer (Madi Ravi, so.psychology@hw.ac.uk): Their main role is to ensure that any academic issues as well as any discrepancies are dealt with appropriately, and to make sure students have the best possible academic experience they can. They work in collaboration with the Student Union, as well as the department and school. They also attend weekly meetings with the Student Union, regular meetings with the staff representative for Psychology, meetings with different members of the school as well as monthly meetings with the Class Reps.

Conferences and outreach



The team regularly present at national and international conferences and at a range of public engagement events. A selection of the most recent include:

Our Psychology Research Seminars are well underway for the semester, and we've already welcomed external speakers as well as hearing from members of the team. Event details for the next seminars are above with a fuller list on the [Facebook](#) page. Still to come this semester we have some of our undergraduate and postgraduate students giving their research "in a flash", and our annual Psychology Research Showcase. Michael Craig is also organising an afternoon of interesting talks from dementia researchers and organisations involved in supporting dementia research. The event is free but places are limited and must be booked in advance: www.hw.ac.uk/dementiaresearch

Gow, A. J. (2018). Lifestyle factors and cognitive ageing: From observation to intervention. Research seminar at the Chaucer Club, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, UK, 11th October.

Gow, A. J. (2018). Staying Sharp. Presentation as part of Doors Open Day, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, 29th September.

Learning and teaching



The welcomes continued this month with a recent event organised by the Psychology Society, bringing together undergraduates, postgraduates and staff, giving everyone a nice chance to meet outside the classroom.

The first of two undergraduate Open Days was held at the end of September, with Maria Garraffa, Dasha Grajfoner, Mel McKendrick, Kevin Muldoon, Mioara Cristea, Lauren Potter and Monica Tamariz fielding questions from potential applicants across the day.

And earlier this month, Anna Sedda joined colleagues from across the university at a Pride and Ambition event hosted by the Principal. The event celebrated the support offered by staff and activities related to Learning and Teaching, and the Wider Student Experience; [read more...](#)

Meet the team

Each month we profile members of our team based across our campuses in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia.

**Dr Mary Stewart, Associate Professor (Edinburgh)**

Mary joined Heriot-Watt in 2003 and developed the department and degree programme alongside Professor Chris Brotherton, having previously worked at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh, and at Newcastle University. Mary is interested mental health and autism. She is interested in factors which affect mental health and in developing tools which assist early identification and intervention. Mary teaches Year 4 Cognition and Emotion, and Year 3 Social Cognition and Personality. She is Secretary and Founder Member of the British Society for Personality and Individual Differences, and Committee Member for the Scottish Autism Research Group. Mary organises the Psychology Seminars... please come along!

**Lucy Bolton, Assistant Professor and Programme Director for the MSc Business Psychology/Business Psychology with Coaching programmes (Dubai)**

Lucy joined Heriot Watt in September 2016 having previously worked at the University of Leeds. She is a Chartered/Registered Occupational Psychologist (BPS/HPCPC), a certified Business Coach, and BPS Occupational Test User. Lucy has conducted research in areas of change management, workspace design, and socio-technical systems, working with organisations including Rolls-Royce, Bentley Motors, Marks and Spencer, and the NHS. Her current research focuses on careers, work values and socialisation in young people entering the workplace. Lucy teaches Coaching Psychology, Coaching Psychology Practice, Social and Organisational Change, Diversity, and Research Methods at MSc level, as well as UG qualitative research sessions.

**Dr Wei Lin Poh, Assistant Professor (Malaysia)**

Wei Lin received her BA Psychology (Honours) from Winona State University, USA (2011), and her PhD from the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (2017) which investigated interaction between reflective attention and language processing among multilingual speakers and how these factors would subsequently influence inhibition and long-term memory retrieval. Her research interests mainly involve reflective attention (refreshing or thinking back to a shown stimulus) in language processing among bilingual or multilingual speakers. Additionally, Wei Lin also has research interests relating to gaze perception and eye movements. She is currently teaching Cognitive Psychology and Human Development and Intelligence.

Team news

Wei Lin Poh joined the team as Assistant Professor in Malaysia.

And thanks to Sue Cowan who recently completed her term as Head of Department.

Research in the Department of Psychology, School of Social Sciences, at Heriot-Watt University is grouped by three main themes: Cognition, Brain and Behaviour; Lifespan Health and Wellbeing; and Work, Society and Environment. Find out more about our research at www.psych.hw.ac.uk or follow updates on Twitter [@HWPsych](#).