

## Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

September 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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## Welcome, and welcome back!

It's that time of year again when we welcome the new students joining our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for the first time, and welcome back our returning students too. We've been delighted to see everyone taking part in the various induction events earlier this month across our campuses in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia, and then back in class from last week.

We're also pleased to "welcome" two new regular features to our monthly newsletter: "Meet the team" and "Student voice". In "Meet the team", we'll be including brief profiles of the team so you can get to know us all a little better. Over the next year, we hope that every one of our academic, technical and professional services staff, researchers and PhD cohort will be included. With "Student voice", we're also pleased to be able to include regular input from our students. Each month will be different, so if you have something you'd like to share in a future newsletter, get in touch.

## Forthcoming events

## Research Seminars/Events

- Davide Crepaldi (SISSA)

26 September, EM244

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

- Chris McVittie (QMU)

3 October, EM244

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

- The International Psychology Conference Dubai

5 & 6 October, HWU Dubai

[Details](#)

Full **Psychology Research Seminar** details are available on [Facebook](#).

## Latest publications

Vaportzis, E., Giatsi Clausen, M., & Gow, A. J. (2018). Older Adults Experiences of Learning to Use Tablet Computers: A Mixed Methods Study. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9: 1631. [doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01631](#)

Garraffa, M., Guasti, M. T., Marinis, T. & Morgan, G., (2018). Editorial: Language acquisition in diverse linguistic, social and cognitive circumstances. *Frontiers in Psychology*. doi: [10.3389/fpsyg.2018.01807](#)



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

## In the news

The Fashion With Style: [39% of people admit to feeling anxious about returning to work next week](#) (Annie Crookes)

## 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](#). First up, a word from the Psychology Society.

Welcome to the Psychology Society! We are Eliška, Izzy, Daniel, Danielle, Matilda and Matthew - a society for students, run by students.

Our aim is to hold at least one academic event and one social event each month. This year we are planning on organising academic events such as mental health first aid training, talks from psychologists or holding a range of psychology related debates. For our social events it could be anything from watching films to nights out or even climbing mountains! We even hold some events that the Psychology department attend as well – this is a great way to get to know your lecturers for the semester.

We are open to any students - undergraduate and postgraduate - and you definitely don't have to be studying Psychology to join. There is no obligation to come to every event either - come as and when it takes your fancy!

To stay updated we post all our events on our Facebook page [@HWPsychSoc](#) and we email everybody on our mailing list - if you would like to be added to the mailing list or you have any questions about the society you can either pop us a message on Facebook or send us an email at [heriotwattpsych@gmail.com](mailto:heriotwattpsych@gmail.com). Also, if you are interested in joining us on the committee (running the society) you can send us an email and we'll invite you along to our next committee meeting.

There is no membership fee, just plenty of good vibes!

## Conferences and outreach activities

This week, Luminate (Scotland's creative ageing organisation) together with Age Scotland and The Ageing Lab, hosted "Creatively Ageing – From New Zealand to Scotland". The event welcomed Billie Jordan to share the story of the world's oldest hip hop crew. The afternoon included a performance by PRIME, Scotland's first semi-professional dance company for the over 60s, and concluded with a panel discussion, chaired by Alan Gow, focussing on the role of ageing, creativity and the arts in supporting the inclusion, visibility and wellbeing of older people.

Our Psychology Research Seminars also restarted this week; event details for the next seminars are above with a fuller list on the [Facebook](#) page.

Chondrogianni, V., Butcher, M., Garraffa, M. & Bak, T. (2018). Supporting children with developmental language disorders in primary Gaelic-medium schools: Challenges and opportunities. *Rannachadh na Gàidhlig 2018*, The University of Edinburgh, 28th August.

## Learning and teaching

As we welcomed our new and returning students across all three campuses, a range of induction events were held for our First Year and Direct Entry students. In Edinburgh, those were led by Monica Tamariz and Mel McKendrick. Special thanks to our student volunteers who helped with those sessions to ensure our new students got a warm and friendly welcome.

With the new academic year, some of our Year Coordinator roles have been updated. If you have a question about a specific year, the people to contact in the first instance are:

Year 1: Monica Tamariz

Year 2: Mel McKendrick

Year 3: Daniel Hale

Year 4: Lauren Potter

Full contact details for all staff can be found [here](#).

## Meet the team

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

## Dr Maria Garraffa, Assistant Professor (Edinburgh)

Maria joined Heriot-Watt in 2014, having previously taught at University of Trento, Milano Bicocca, Newcastle University and University of Edinburgh. She has a background in Linguistics and an interest in children and adults language acquisition in special circumstances, such as aphasia, speakers of minority languages and children with learning impairments. Maria teaches Introduction to Psychology and Psychology of Language in the undergraduate programme, and Diversity at MSc level. She is Admissions and Recruitment officer, hosting workshops for visitors and offering talks during Open and Applicant Days. She has two bilingual daughters and loves talking with them about their bilingual brain.

## Dr Daniel Hale, Assistant Professor (Edinburgh)

Dan joined the Heriot-Watt team in August 2016, after working at University College London and London School of Economics. His research focuses on the predictors and long-term outcomes of substance use and other risk behaviours. Past work has focused on multiple risk behaviours in adolescence, and the role of self-regulation in risk behaviour. His current work focuses on the long-term outcomes of illicit drug use, specifically cannabis (note: his interest in illicit drugs is strictly professional). He currently teaches Health Psychology (Year 3) and Psychology and Mental Health (Year 4), and is the Year 3 Coordinator.

## Dr Annie Crookes, Associate Professor (Dubai)

Annie is Psychology Leader at the Dubai Campus and has recently taken on the global role of Deputy Head of Department. She has been in Dubai for 14 years, previously establishing the psychology department for Middlesex University Dubai before doing the same at Heriot-Watt's Dubai Campus in 2010. She teaches across the undergraduate programmes and developed the Mental Health course among others. Annie works closely with professional psychologists in the UAE, leading the Dubai Psychology Network and organising the annual International Psychology Conference Dubai, a large professional development event. She publishes textbook chapters and industry-related papers with research interests in the field of addiction.

## Team news

Kirin Hilliar joined the team as Assistant Professor in Dubai.

Annie Crookes has taken on the Deputy Head of Department role; and thanks to Kevin Muldoon for his contributions as Deputy over the previous years.

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](http://www.psych.hw.ac.uk) or follow updates on Twitter [@HWPsych](#).

