

Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

February 2019

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).



Follow our updates on
Twitter [@HWPsych](#)

Halfway there...

Although it might feel like the year has only just started, we're already halfway through the latest teaching semester. To all our students in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia: keep up the good work!

We're also pleased to announce applications are now open for up to two PhD Scholarships to commence from September 2019. The scholarships are available across our three research themes: Cognition, Brain and Behaviour; Lifespan Health and Wellbeing; and Work, Society and Environment. Full details can be found at <https://www.hw.ac.uk/study/scholarships/phd-scholarships-disability-inclusion.htm>, and the closing date for applications is 15 March.

And don't forget to register for our annual Psychology Research Showcase being held on 20 March (details below).

Forthcoming events

Research Seminars/Events
- Mark Elliot (U. Manchester)
27 February, PG304

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

- What Keeps You Sharp?
17 March, Glasgow Comedy Festival

[Details](#) | [Tickets](#)

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

Latest publications



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

In the news

Research updates and funding

Student voice



Conferences and outreach

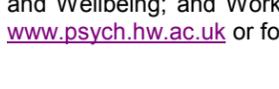
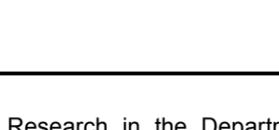
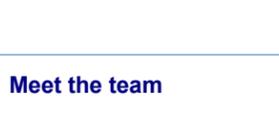


The team regularly present at national and international conferences and at a range of public engagement events. A selection of the most recent include:

Learning and teaching



Meet the team



Craig, M., Wolbers, T., Strickland, S., Achtzehn, J. & Dewar, M. (in press). Rapid improvement of cognitive maps in the awake state. *Hippocampus*. doi: [10.1002/hipo.23081](#)

Manches, A., McKenna, P., Rajendran, G. & Robertson, J. (in press). Identifying embodied metaphors for computer education. *Computers in Human Behavior*. doi: [10.1016/j.chb.2018.12.037](#)

Vaportzis, E., Niechcial, M. A. & Gow, A. J. (2019). A systematic literature review and meta-analysis of real-world interventions for cognitive ageing in healthy older adults. *Ageing Research Reviews*, 50, 110-130. doi: [10.1016/j.arr.2019.01.006](#)

[MSc programme in Dubai receives International Coach Federation approval](#)

[Life of Brain: Lifestyle choices that benefit brain health](#)

Rajendran, G., Aylett, R., Fallon, T., Minnis, H., & Stone, R. Test Play – Developing and testing a new computer role play programme as a research, clinical and educational tool. EPSRC Impact Acceleration Award, £30,280.

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 Society at the Dubai campus.

By Dubai Psychology Society: Every year, the Psychology Society proposes itself as a fundamental part of the student experience within the Psychology department. As representatives, we pride ourselves on the efficiency we have instilled in our team, and the many events we have provided for our fellow students.

We always start the new academic year by holding an Icebreaker for all of our students, thus giving freshmen the opportunity to socialise and ask questions if need be. The **Mental Health Awareness Campaign** has been one of the bigger events the society representatives created, held yearly in order to help in dismantling the stigma that comes with mental health, as well as providing resources for students in need. We also created **PsychxTalks**, in which students and professors alike can come and give a talk on topics that are of interest in the field of psychology, and similarly, we often invite licensed psychologists to come and give talks on their expertise to better guide our students in their career choices.

Moreover, we have held **PsychxGames** to provide our students with an outlet to unwind whilst still using concepts in psychology and making them fun. Another one of our bigger events has also been **PsychxExhibition**, in which mini experiments are done by students and presented to the wider body of students within the campus. Finally, we hold pride in our own **PsychNewsletter**, where knowledge on new topics can be shared and sent to the entirety of the psychology department in the Dubai campus. We market all of our events through our Instagram page ([@psychsoc1](#)) and it has allowed for a gained attraction, even by students outside of the psychology department. Our team is hardworking, creative and consistently aims for the betterment of the psychology students' experience.

HWUDC Psychology Society Instagram - [HWUDC Psychology Society](#)

Our Psychology Research Seminars have restarted; event details for the next seminars are above with a fuller list on the [Facebook](#) page, including our Psychology Research Showcase on 20 March. Presentations at the Showcase will cover our past, present and future research, as well as our public engagement activities and there will be the opportunity to view research posters and meet our team. The event is free, but please [register](#).

In January, a coaching skills workshop was run in Dubai with guest speakers from du (Emirates Integrated Communications Company), one of the largest telecom operators in the UAE. Ruwan Wanigasekera and Lucy Fairclough, both Business Psychologists, led the coaching team in the organisation and came to share their expertise on in-house coaching and developing a coaching culture in the region.

Gow, A. J. & Armstrong S. (2019). How to Age Well. Presentation as part of the Edinburgh Wellbeing Festival, Edinburgh, UK, 27th January.

The MSc Business Psychology with Coaching programme running at the Dubai Campus has received approval for training hours from the International Coach Federation (ICF). This makes it the first University Masters in the UAE to receive approval for Business Coach Training! The programme is in its second year and has exceeded recruitment expectations due to an increasing in Coaching Psychology and Business Coaching in the region. The Masters programme will now be visible on the ICF Training Program Search Service online for potential students.

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

Professor David Finkelstein, Interim Head of Department
David joined us in January from the University of Edinburgh, where he had been Head of the Centre for Open Learning. Anglo-American in background, born in South America, raised in the Caribbean and France, educated in New York, Oxford and Edinburgh, he is a multilingual social scientist well-versed in international educational settings. He has worked as a senior manager in four different Scottish institutions over the past twenty years, including as Acting Head of School of Social Sciences, Media and Communication at Queen Margaret University, and Head of School at the University of Dundee. A dance enthusiast with a secret past as Latin American dance champion, he's given up the glittery shirts for life as a member of the academic community (but you never know, those dance moves might come in handy at some future event...). He looks forward to making contact with everyone across the 3 campuses during his time with us.

Dr Çakıl Agnew, Assistant Professor (Dubai)
Çakıl received her PhD from the University of Aberdeen (UK) in 2011. Following her PhD, she worked as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Aberdeen and she joined the Heriot Watt University in 2014. Her research focus has been on the impact of safety culture and leadership on performance at work, in high risk industries. Çakıl is the GCC for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and Academic Skills and also teaches Skills and Communication in Psychology, Social Psychology and Research Methods 6. Outside work, Çakıl enjoys spending time with her family outdoors especially sailing where she is an RYA licensed skipper.

Dr Malini Ratnasingam, Associate Professor (Malaysia)
Malini completed her PhD (Work Psychology) at Sheffield University. Her expertise is in Social Psychology. Her postdoctoral research focused on the influence of organisational structure, task characteristics and cultural factors (Malaysia-Japan comparison) on the form and outcome of team working in manufacturing. More recently she has focused on social identity and intergroup relationships, looking at the interaction between national and ethnic identities, the role of perceived discrimination and perceived threat (realistic and symbolic) on intergroup attitudes and well-being. Malini joined HWUM in 2016 and teaches Research Methods and Analysis 3, Advanced Social Psychology, Social and Organisational Change, and Diversity. She is Year 3 Coordinator and is preparing content for an Introductory Psychology course offered to Foundation students starting April 2019.

Federico Brusa, PhD Student (Edinburgh)
Federico started his PhD at Heriot-Watt University in September 2018. His research focuses on body representation, more specifically on the representation of the "less famous" lower limbs. Federico obtained his Master's degree in Psychology in 2017 at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), with a dissertation exploring the effects of language proficiency and cognitive reserve on cognitive performance. After graduation, he did a psychology internship at San Paolo Hospital in Milan (Italy) where practiced in the field of neuro-psychological assessment and neuro-rehabilitation with HIV patients. Here, he also had the opportunity to be involved in projects studying physician-patient communication.

Tich Chieza joined the team as Departmental Administrative Assistant for Psychology and LINCS.

Maria Garraffa has been appointed Review Editor to the Editorial Board of Understanding Neuroscience, part of the journal Frontiers for Young Minds.

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](#).