

## Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

January 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](#)

## Forthcoming events

## Research Seminars/Events

- Dan Hale (HWU)  
23 January, PG304

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

- How to age well  
27 January, Edinburgh Well-being Festival

[Details](#)

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

## Happy New Year (of Health)!

At the start of a new year, it's useful to reflect on some of the key events from the year just gone. In 2018 we celebrated graduations across all three campuses in our undergraduate, Masters and PhD programmes; publications in a diverse range of psychological areas from childhood development, coaching, human-computer interaction, psycholinguistics, and more; welcomed new colleagues and students... If you've missed any of those highlights, you can access our newsletter archive via the [SoSS website](#).

2019 will be as busy as ever—we're already anticipating another couple of PhD submissions later in the year, as well as activities and events associated with the university's Year of Health. We'll be showcasing many of those activities in our monthly newsletters and we hope you're interested in those updates. For now, here's to a productive 2019.

## Latest publications



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

Porayska-Pomsta, K., Alcorn, A., Avramides, K., Beale, S., Bernardini, S., Foster, M.-E., Frauenberger, C., Good, J., Gulberg, K., Keay-Bright, W., Kossyvakis, L., Lemon, O., Mademtzis, M., Menzies, R., Mital, P., Pain, H., Rajendran, G., Waller, A., Wass, S., & Smith, T.J. (in press). Blending Human and Artificial Intelligence to support Autistic Children's Social Skills. *Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*. [doi: 10.1145/3271484](#)

## In the news

Research the Headlines: [Looking back at Research the Headlines in 2018](#)

[Heriot-Watt research hits the top ten](#) (Alan Gow)

The Scotsman: [Edinburgh Wellbeing Festival returns to offer inspirational talks and sessions](#)

## 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 Society at the Edinburgh campus.

**By Edinburgh Psychology Society:** Welcome to the Psychology society,

We are eager to keep our members updated with Psychologists, volunteering opportunities and anything else we feel may benefit you. This society is open to everyone no matter what your course of study or year and we hope to develop or spark an interest in psychology, how it may be applied and what some debates may be!

Last semester we held many social events including laser tag, movie nights, a pub crawl, a charity pub quiz raising money for MIND, a wellbeing walk up Arthur's Seat and even a chilled night in Geordies with the Psychology department! We also held a few academic events including an information evening about volunteering opportunities amongst other things.

For our next event we have Christine Hamilton—an Occupational Psychologist—coming into the University to deliver a talk about careers in Occupational Psychology. This will be taking place on Tuesday 22nd January in SR114 starting at 5pm.

To stay updated, we post all our events on our Facebook page [@HWPsychSoc](#), our Instagram [@heriotwattpsych](#) 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 or want to join us on the committee, you can either pop us a message on Facebook or send us an email at [heriotwattpsych@gmail.com](#).

We hope to see you at our upcoming events!



## Conferences and outreach activities

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

The team are also going to be involved in a diverse range of activities throughout the year, from appearances at the Edinburgh Wellbeing Festival later this month, to the Glasgow Comedy Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe to name a few. Many of those events are linked to the university's Year of Health, and you'll hear more about those in future newsletters.

## Meet the team

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

**Shannon Strickland, Research Assistant (Edinburgh)**

Shannon graduated with degree in Applied Psychology from Heriot-Watt University in 2016. She returned to Heriot-Watt in Spring 2017 to work as a Research Assistant in the Memory Lab, where she conducted two projects involving virtual reality and brain activity recording (EEG) methods. In December 2018, Shannon started working as a Research Assistant on a Carnegie Trust-funded project in the Memory Lab. This new project involves developing memory-related markers of healthy ageing and Alzheimer's disease, which could help to develop a better understanding how memory changes normally as we grow older and abnormally in dementia.

**Dr Anna Sedda, Assistant Professor (Edinburgh)**

Anna got her PhD in Psychology in 2009 from the University of Pavia (Italy). She is a cognitive psychologist with expertise in neuropsychology and clinical psychology. Anna joined HW in 2015 and is currently Director of Undergraduate Taught Programmes. Her research is on body representation: how do we know our left arm is ours and not our friends? Another topic Anna is particularly interested in is disgust processing: why people refuse to lick fingers, for instance, is it a brain related process, or a culturally learned response? Anna makes use of behavioural paradigms and neuropsychological tasks to answer these questions, together with brain stimulation techniques. Anna teaches Cognitive Rehabilitation, Research Methods 6, and contributes to Introduction to Psychology. In her free time, Anna loves to prepare lists and templates, together with watching videos of cats.

**Dr Minu Mathews, Assistant Professor (Dubai)**

Minu joined Heriot-Watt in 2013, having completed her PhD in Organisational Health Psychology from the University of Leeds. She is global course coordinator of Health Psychology and Research Methods and Analysis 2. She also teaches Research Methods and Analysis 4 and 5, Psychology of Education and Academic Skills. She is chair of the Psychology Ethics Committee and has recently taken over as the Associate Director of Learning and Teaching of the School of Social Sciences in Dubai. Her research interests include stress at work, a cross-cultural examination of the causes of burnout and the impact of health behaviours on well-being.

**Dr Mandy Wong, Assistant Professor (Malaysia)**

Mandy joined Heriot-Watt University Malaysia in 2013. Her research interest is in organisational behaviour such as work stress, social support, organisational citizenship behaviour, self-efficacy and job satisfaction. She has secured FRGS (Fundamental research grants scheme) funding, and is involved in market studies for retailers such as Introduction to Psychology, Research Methods, Social Psychology, Industrial and Organisational Psychology and Introduction to Human Factors. Mandy is currently teaching Research Methods, Organisational Culture and Psychology for Marketing. She is also programme director for undergraduate and postgraduate psychology programmes in HWUM (Heriot-Watt University Malaysia).

**Dr Gnanathusharan (Thusha) Rajendran, Associate Professor (Edinburgh)**

Thusha joined Heriot-Watt in 2012 having previously worked at the University of Strathclyde, University of Edinburgh and University of Nottingham. He did his undergraduate and masters degrees at the University of Birmingham before doing a PhD at the University of Nottingham in Developmental Psychology. Thusha's research interests include human computer interaction and human robot interaction (as see you can see from his photo). He teaches Intelligence at Work (Year 3) and Research Methods and Analysis 4 (Year 2). He is also the Department Research Coordinator - which means he promotes and has oversight over the Psychology Department's research activities.

## Team news

Ron Salden joined the team as Assistant Professor in Malaysia; David Finkelstein joined the team as Interim Head of Psychology.

Alan Gow has been appointed as Academic Lead for Heriot-Watt's Year of Health.

Our congratulations to Dan Hale and family as they welcomed their new arrival, Nina, at the end of last year.

And we wish Sue Cowan all the best as she takes up a secondment with the Edinburgh Business School this month.

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](#).