

Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

June 2020

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](#)

### Congratulations (and virtual graduations)!

At this time of year, we'd normally be celebrating the completion of their degrees with our most recent graduates at ceremonies in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia. Obviously, those physical celebrations have been curtailed, but let us state it clearly—we've done; we're very proud of your achievements!

We hope that there will be opportunities later in the year to congratulate you properly (either remotely or on campus where possible), so do stay tuned for information from the university.

Congratulations to all those who completed their degree this year, including our prizewinners across the three campuses. A special mention to our Psychology with Forensic Science graduates, the last cohort to complete that degree programme. With that programme finishing we also want to send our thanks to Paul Henderson for his teaching on those Honours year forensics courses over the years. Paul retired from the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences a few years ago, but we were very lucky that he continued as a visiting lecturer with us to see the final students through the programme. Thanks Paul!



For everyone in the Class of 2020, we look forward to hearing where your degree takes you, so do keep in touch! From all the team, a very well-deserved congratulations on completing your studies and all the best for what comes next!

### Forthcoming events

**Research Seminars/Events**  
- Given the current situation, we're exploring how our events/activities might move online over the summer and into the new academic year. Check our social media channels for regular updates ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas - 15 July featuring Alan Gow  
- 22 July featuring Joe Stubbersfield  
The Stand On Demand (online), full details at [https://ondemand.thestand.co.uk/Video/EGMEGL/the\\_cabaret\\_of\\_dangerous\\_ideas](https://ondemand.thestand.co.uk/Video/EGMEGL/the_cabaret_of_dangerous_ideas)

### Latest publications



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

Gow, A. J. (2020). Associations Between Activity Participation Across the Life Course and Cognitive Ageing. In Gutchess, A. & Thomas, A. Handbook of Cognitive Aging: A Life Course Perspective (Cambridge Handbooks in Psychology). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [doi: 10.1017/9781108552684.028](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108552684.028)

Zeman, A., Milton, F., Della Sala, S., Dewar, M., Frayling, T., Gaddum, J., Hattersley, A., Heurman-Williamson, B., Jones, K., MacKisack, M. & Winlove, C. (in press). Phantasia - The psychological significance of lifelong visual imagery vividness extremes. *Cortex*. [doi: 10.1016/j.cortex.2020.04.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2020.04.003)

Aziz, M. A., Hassan, M., Razak, R. & Garraffa, M. (in press). Syntactic abilities in Malay adult speakers with aphasia: a study on passive sentences and argument structures. *Aphasiology*. [doi: 10.1080/02687038.2020.1742283](https://doi.org/10.1080/02687038.2020.1742283)

Each new paper is accompanied by a brief and accessible summary. Just search #HWPsychResearch on Twitter, or look in the "Our latest research" album on our Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/pg/HWPsych/>.



### In the news

[Looking back on Mental Health Awareness Week](#)

[Heriot-Watt Dubai retains five-star rating in KHDA results](#)

### Learning and teaching



Our virtual learning and teaching activities have continued over the past few weeks. Anna Sedda led a Bitesize Session on "Keeping Happy During Lockdown", as part of Learning and Teaching Week at Heriot-Watt. In the session, Anna examined various ways to maintain a cheerful and motivated outlook on life during restricted times. Rounding out the month, Lucy Bolton and Greg Fantham hosted their latest online session on "Unlocking Leadership", a taster webinar for potential students to learn more about Business Psychology opportunities and also how to enhance leadership skills for today's work environment.

And finally this month, a new online learning series on cultural evolution was released by the Center for the Dynamics of Social Complexity and the Cultural Evolution Society, with a module co-developed by Joe Stubbersfield. Joe's modules explores topics including conspiracy theories and fake news. Find out more, and take part in the module, at <http://dysoc.org/cesmodules/>.

### Research updates and funding

Over the last few weeks, we've been pleased to hear of a number of funding successes across the team. For example, Mary Stewart and colleagues from other SoSS departments secured a Carnegie PhD Scholarship that will begin this September, while Mel McKendrick and Alan Gow were part of a team from across the university that was awarded a Heriot-Watt EPSRC Impact Acceleration Award, being led by Mauro Dragone in EPS.

Michael Craig and Michaela Dewar received funding from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust for "Rest to remember: a technique to boost memory in Alzheimer's disease" in collaboration with colleagues at Strathclyde University. Maria Garraffa was also part of a consortium on a new project funded by UNA-Europa (Erasmus+) exploring "A Linguistic Investigation of Hate Speech: How to identify it and how to avoid it" and Joe Stubbersfield secured funding to complete consultancy work with Pomilio Blull, a European communications company.

Dragone, M., Desmulliez, M. P. Y., Goussetis, G., Ding, Y., Anagnostou, D., Sellathurai, M., Erden, S., Vallejo, M., Gow, A., McKendrick, M., Angelelli, C. V., Lemon, O., Baillie, L., Gray, A. J. G., Hastie, H., Taylor, N., Vargas, P., Petrick, R., & Woolrych, R. D. Impact Accelerator for Ambient Assisted Living – OpenAAL. Heriot-Watt EPSRC Impact Acceleration Awards, £ 49,978, June 2020-March 2021.

Garraffa, M. (2020). A Linguistic Investigation of Hate Speech: How to identify it and how to avoid it (ALIHAS). UNA-Europa (Erasmus +), 14910 EUR.

### Conferences and outreach activities

While our face-to-face Psychology Research Seminars and other events have been postponed, many more activities are appearing online. Event details for the next activities are above, and check our social media channels for fuller details and updates (including [Facebook](#)).

Michael Craig worked with the Alzheimer's Society to develop a framework for online research dissemination to bring together Society staff, funded researchers, Society members, and other stakeholders. This included the development and piloting of an online format for research presentations and discussions. The successful pilot resulted in the Society planning to roll out the initiative for all its funded researchers and members in Summer 2020.



We were also delighted that Calum Marr, one of our PhD Researchers, was runner-up in Heriot-Watt's 3 Minute Thesis competition. For those with a university login, you can view the entries at <https://sway.office.com/4VMcRozCSHFsm4ZH>. Congratulations Calum!

One of our former MSc Business Psychology students, Jono Elliot, also took part in a recent interview with the Watt Club. Jono discussed the things he learned whilst studying at Heriot-Watt which you can view at <https://youtu.be/NYuUdfB7ZEE>. Jono will also be leading a session in July on assertiveness, and you can sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assertiveness-workshop-webinar-tickets-104949095570>.

And finally, while our planned events at the Fringe in Edinburgh are cancelled or on hold, we are pleased to share that the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas will be hosting a series of special events throughout July, as part of The Stand On Demand. Alan Gow and Joe Stubbersfield will be appearing, exploring staying sharp and conspiracy theories. For more details about how to enjoy the shows virtually, visit [https://ondemand.thestand.co.uk/Video/EGMEGL/the\\_cabaret\\_of\\_dangerous\\_ideas](https://ondemand.thestand.co.uk/Video/EGMEGL/the_cabaret_of_dangerous_ideas).

Smith, G. Finocchiaro, C. & Garraffa, M. (2020). An investigation on clinical markers in bilingual young adults with ASD and DLD: a cross case analysis. Bi-SLI, Bilingualism and Language Impairment Conference, 15th-18th June 2020, Galway, Ireland (online).

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

### And finally...

As above, with our final cohort graduating from the Psychology with Forensic Science programme, we would like to wish Paul Henderson all the best. Thanks for all your contributions as visiting lecturer.

And congratulations to our colleagues who were nominated in the most recent round of Heriot-Watt Values Awards. Well done to Lucy Bolton, Greg Fantham, Kirin Hilliar, Minu Mathews, Lauren Potter, Anna Sedda and Mercedes Sheen.