

### Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

October 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](#)

### Halfway there...

It's hard to believe, but we're just over halfway through the first semester of teaching for the 2020/21 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. We know the current year is proving challenging for both students and staff, so the key message is to keep in touch.



As well as marking the halfway point, this month sees our new Research Seminar series coordinated by Mary Stewart re-starting (details of the next seminars in the panel to the right) and the launch of our newest series of events, Psychology on Tap...more on that below.

It's also been another busy month for new papers and as always, you can see details of those below including links to the articles online, and a bumper month for outreach activities which you can read about below.

### Forthcoming events

**Research Seminars/Events**  
Given the current situation, our events/activities are being hosted online. Check our social media channels for regular event updates ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).

- Kym Craig and Calum Marr (HWU)  
28 October  
[Details](#)

- Psychology on Tap  
16 November  
[Details](#)

- Ke Guek Nee (HWU)  
17 November  
[Details](#) | [Speaker's profile](#)

- Ryan Woolrych (HWU)  
24 November  
[Details](#) | [Speaker's profile](#)

- Catherine Crompton (U. Edinburgh)  
1 December  
[Details](#) | [Speaker's profile](#)

### Latest publications



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

Garraffa, M., Obregon, M., O'Rourke, B. & Sorace, A. (2020) Language and Cognition in Gaelic-English Young Adult Bilingual Speakers: A Positive Effect of School Immersion Program on Attentional and Grammatical Skills. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11: 570587. [doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.570587](#)

Jordan, T. R., Yekani, H. A. K. & Sheen, M. (2020). Further investigation of the effects of wearing the hijab: Perception of female facial attractiveness by Emirati Muslim men living in their native Muslim country. *PLoS ONE*, 15(10): e0239419. [doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0239419](#)

Baert, F., McParland, J., Miller, M. M., Hirsh, A. T., Wallace, E., Dickson, A., Trost, Z. & Vervoort, T. (2020). Mother's appraisals of injustice in the context of their child's chronic pain: an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. *European Journal of Pain*, 24 (10), 1932-1945. [doi: 10.1002/ejp.1642](#)

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



### In the news

BBC Alba: [Buannachdan an cois dà-chànanas](#)

tes: [How a Gaelic education brings bilingual benefits](#)

Yahoo!: [Why being 'too grateful' at work can impact women's careers](#)

[Psychology on Tap series launches](#)

### Research updates and funding

Hastie, H., Cangelosi, A, Demiris, Y. & Rajendran, G. Trustworthy Autonomous Systems Node in Trust (EN-TRUST). UKRI, £3M, 2020-23.

### Learning and teaching

During Consolidation Week, sessions were held to bring students and staff together to explore how everyone is adapting to the online modes of teaching. The Global Student Experience Forum sessions were coordinated by Monica Tamariz and Minu Mathews (undergraduate) and Mandy Wong and Mioara Cristea (postgraduate). Thanks to all the students who completed the feedback surveys earlier in the semester that provided a basis for the discussions, and to those who took part in the sessions from all campuses to share their experiences.

And although we're continuing to work remotely, that's not stopped our recruitment activities for our next cohorts of students. Most recently Dan Hale hosted an Instagram Live Open Day session, supported by one of our recent undergraduates Luke Todd.

### Conferences and outreach activities



Our Psychology Research Seminars restart this week with PhD students Kym Craig and Calum Marr sharing their research updates; event details for the next seminars are above, with a fuller list available on [Facebook](#).

The International Psychology Conference Dubai (IPCD 2020) took place earlier this month. The first online conference in IPCD's history, the organising committee (including Kirin Hilliar and Cakil Agnew from our Dubai campus) organised an impressive day of presentations, panels and workshops from local and international experts, all around the conference theme of "Social Identity: Coexistence in a Changing World". With over 400 individual log-ins to attend the session throughout the day, IPCD hopes to continue to bring high-quality professional development opportunities for psychology professionals in the GCC and MENA regions, be they digital or face-to-face experiences.

Forensics Middle East and Africa also held their first virtual conference on 12-14 October (<https://www.forensics-mea.com/>). Kirin Hilliar gave two video presentations. Her first talk focused on the role of forensic psychologists in optimising the use of face recognition evidence (e.g. lineup identifications), AI (e.g. face-matching software and databases) and personnel (e.g., training, awareness of their own potential biases) in law enforcement. Her second talk discussed the need for local external validation of offender risk assessment tools used by forensic psychologists and psychiatrists. Literally hundreds of assessment tools exist, but the vast majority have not been validated in the MENA region. And that needs to change if we want to feel confident in our decision-making when we use these tools to determine sentencing, level of supervision, treatment needs, and more.



We were delighted to launch our new Psychology on Tap series this month. These events provide the chance to explore some of the big topics that might affect our lives in an informal setting. Kirin Hilliar kicked off the programme with "Ethical challenges of working with forensic clients", and we had over 85 people participating in the session...and many more questions than we were able to get through! Psychology on Tap returns next month, with "Choose your own conspiracy theory" with Joe Stubbersfield (click the link above for more details and to register). This month, Joe was also participating in a new Cultural Evolution webinar series with his talk "Cognitive biases in folklore: From fairy tales to fake news".



As part of Wellbeing Week, Anna Sedda shared some psychological knowledge and real students' stories of motivation and resilience to kick off the 2nd annual Mental Health conference, which was organised by the Heriot-Watt University Student Union and broadcast globally across our UK, Dubai and Malaysia campuses. As part of Black History Month, Thusha Rajendran was invited to speak at an Enhancement Lecture: "Race, Racism and Anti-Racism in 2020". You can watch a recording of the event at <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/fdc177cf-d33a-41f8-90e1-1e3b10ad9ed5>. Rounding out the month, Ke Guek Nee led a webinar on the effects of the Covid-19 crisis on socio-economics, psychological well-being and resilience among Malaysians.

And if all that wasn't enough, you can watch the webinar that Mioara Cristea took part in launching the School for CEOs report on "The Psychological Impact of Covid-19: How senior executives are impacted by lockdown" here <https://youtu.be/4J2penc9YQXo>.

### 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're hearing from our Psychology Society at the Edinburgh campus.

### By the Heriot-Watt Psychology Society:

Hiya, we are YOUR Psychology Society, a society for students, run by students. Our events agenda (adapted to COVID of course) ranges from online educational talks from our Psychology department and outside speakers to bingo from our Psychology department and outside speakers to movie nights and even baking competitions. We know how hard it must be for everyone during these uncertain times and we want students to feel part of a community regardless of whether they are on campus, in Edinburgh, or back home. Our society is open to anyone and everyone 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 with the society, we post all of our events on our FB page "[@HWPsychSoc](#)" and our Instagram page "[@heriotwattpsych](#)". Email us at [heriotwattpsych@gmail.com](mailto:heriotwattpsych@gmail.com) to be added to our Teams group or if you have any questions and want to chat about the society. We are also looking to recruit members for our committee next year, so don't hesitate to let us know if you're interested! We are all looking forward to seeing you at our events!