

## Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

October 2017

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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## Farewell...and welcome!



It's another month with a fond farewell and a warm welcome. At the end September, the team were sorry to see Maggie Munro finish her last day at Heriot-Watt. Maggie joined Heriot-Watt 15 years ago, working within the School of Life Sciences for most of that time before taking up her role as Psychology Department Administrative Assistant within the School of Social Sciences. We wish Maggie well in her well-earned retirement.

With Maggie's departure, the team welcome Lee Williamson-Houston into her role. Lee currently works with LINCS and we're delighted to have her joining our team too.

## Forthcoming events

## Research Seminars

- HWPsych Postdocs  
25 October, JN116

[Abstract](#)

- Louise Brown (Strathclyde)  
8 November, JN116

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

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](#).

Beevi, Z., Low, W. Y., & Hassan, J. (2017). The effectiveness of hypnosis intervention for labor. *American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis*, 60, 172-191. [doi: 10.1080/00029157.2017.1280659](#)

Buckingham, G., Reid, D., & Potter, L. M. (2017). How prior expectations influence older adults' perception and action during object interaction. *Multisensory Research*. [doi: 10.1163/22134808-0000258](#)

Dewar, M., Neroni, M. A., Zeman, A., Beschin, N., & Della Sala, S. (2017). Visual complexity accentuates picture-description deficit in amnesia. *Neuropsychology*, 31(6), 689-696. [doi: 10.1037/neu0000310](#)

Savage, S., Hoefjeizers, S., Streatfield, C., Dewar, M., & Zeman, A. (in press). The evolution of accelerated long-term forgetting: Evidence from the TIME study. *Cortex*. [doi: 10.1016/j.cortex.2017.09.007](#)

Vaportzis, E. Giatsi Clausen, M., & Gow, A. J. (2017). Older adults perceptions of technology and barriers to interacting with tablet computers: A focus group study. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8: 1687. [doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01687](#)

## In the news

[Heriot-Watt rises in World University Rankings](#)

[Social Robotics and Psychology](#) (Teoh Ai Ni)

[Opening our Doors to the Community](#)

[Heriot-Watt in top five universities in Scotland](#)

[Heriot-Watt University named International University of the Year](#)

[Postgrad Students Welcomed with Party in The Caves](#)

[Heriot-Watt's Robotarium Needs You!](#) (Peter McKenna)

## Conferences and outreach activities



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



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 22 November.

Peter McKenna presented a demonstration at this year's Scottish Informatics and Computer Science Alliance (SICSA) Demofest, held at Dynamic Earth. The event was opened by the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville, and included a speech from The Data Lab CEO, Gillian Doherty. Peter, alongside project colleague Ayan Ghosh, talked about their [SoCoRo project](#).

Anna Sedda and a group of student volunteers presented "Frying brains while eating sushi" at the recent Doors Open Day. Doors Open Day is an annual event and Heriot-Watt was a venue for the first time, with hundreds visiting the different events and activities hosted at the Lyell Centre. More pictures from the event [here](#).

Monica Tamariz was an invited speaker at the Minds, Mechanisms and Interactions in the Evolution of Language workshop at the Max Plank Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (the Netherlands). She presented her theoretical, experimental and modelling work on the cultural evolution of language.

Craig, M., Wolbers, T., & Dewar, M. (2017). Awake quiescence enhances spatial memory of a virtual reality town. *British Psychological Society Cognitive Section Conference*, Newcastle, UK, September.

Gow, A. J. (2017). What Keeps You Sharp? Presentation at ROAR – Connections for Life AGM, Linwood, UK, 5th October.

Tamariz, M. (2017). A model of unbiased cultural transmission: replication of public productions and emergence of mental representations. Presentation at the Inaugural Conference of the Cultural Evolution Society, Jena, Germany, 13th-15th September.

## Learning and teaching



The semester got off to a good start with the 4th Years being welcomed at a special Honours Day in Week 1, including talks from a range of university support services, colleagues from the School, and some hints about the common concerns related to their final year.

The welcomes continued with a recent event organised by the Psychology Society, bringing together undergraduates, postgraduates and staff, giving everyone a nice chance to meet outside the classroom.

The first of two undergraduate Open Days was held at the end of September, with Maria Garraffa, Mary Stewart, Kevin Muldoon, Mel McKendrick and Mioara Cristea fielding questions from potential applicants across the day.



## Professional development

Michaela Dewar and Dan Hale have taken up roles on the School's new Futures Forum, and Alan Gow has been appointed to the University Committee for Learning and Teaching.