

### Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

January 2018

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

- HWPsych PhD Students  
17 January, JN116

[Abstract](#)

- Elise Ferre (Royal Holloway)  
31 January, JN116

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

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

### Happy New Year!

At the start of a new year, it's useful to reflect on some of the key events from the year just gone. In 2017 we celebrated graduations across all three campuses, including two PhD awards; successful grant submissions and new researchers joining those projects; publications in a diverse range of psychological areas from hypnosis in childbirth to social robotics; and more... If you've missed any of those highlights, you can access our newsletter archive via the [SoSS website](#).

2018 will be as busy as ever—we're already anticipating another couple of PhD submissions later in the year, as well as our first undergraduate cohort graduating in Malaysia. 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 2018.

### Latest publications



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

Garraffa, M. (2017). Grammar as a Maturationally Controlled Behaviour: Minimality in Development and Impairment. *Biolinguistics*, 11, [ISSN 1450-3417](#).

McKenna, P., Lim, M. Y., Ghosh, A., Aylett, R., Broz, F., & Rajendran, T. (2017). Do You Think I Approve of That? Designing Facial Expressions for a Robot. In: Kheddar A. et al. (eds) *Social Robotics. ICSR 2017. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol 10652. Springer, Cham. [doi: 10.1007/978-3-319-70022-9\\_19](#)

### In the news

[Social robot could help autistic adults find work \(video\)](#) (Thusha Rajendran and Peter McKenna)

[Postgraduate Prize Winners Share their views on Studying at Heriot-Watt Edinburgh](#)

### Research updates and funding

Go, Y. I., Yap, T. C., Teoh, A. N., Rahman, A. A., & Chong, C. F. Large Scale Solar Power: Solutions and Techno Social-Economic Implications to Malaysia in Meeting World Energy Challenges by 2030. FLEDGE Funding, Edinburgh Energy Academy, Heriot-Watt University, £5,422, 6 months.

Maria Garraffa joined the COST ACTION Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists (<http://www.aphasiatrials.org/>), an international research network of multidisciplinary aphasia investigators.

### Conferences and outreach activities



Our Psychology Research Seminars restart this week with a showcase event from three of our current PhD students; full seminar details are available on [Facebook](#).

SoSS Malaysia recently hosted a guest lecture from Christian Van Nieuwerburgh (University of East London) titled 'The Integration Positive Psychology and Coaching'. Professor Van Nieuwerburgh's interactive and inspiring lecture was attended by the MSc Business Psychology students, and elaborated on concepts such as the development of coaching throughout the years, as well as positive psychology and its applicability in organisational contexts. Coaching-related activities that utilised positive psychology techniques were carried out with the participants, who gained a better understanding of how to identify one's strengths and how they can be enhanced to optimise performance. Professor Van Nieuwerburgh also discussed his experiences as a coach and shared his advice on how to strive for a future career in the coaching industry.



The Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) held its annual NMRCP Research Symposium with the theme of 'Unlocking the Socio-Economic Value of the Digital Economy: Collaborating for Growth and Impact'. Ke Guek Nee presented her findings. In the first study, entitled 'An Intervention Programme for Excessive Internet Uses', she described the effectiveness of the Psychological Intervention Programme – Internet Use – Youth (PIP-IU-Y), a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). Her current study, entitled 'A Framework for Cyber Wellness Centre: Preventive Intervention Programmes for Problematic Internet Behaviours', is an ongoing project that further addresses internet-related problematic behaviour that is currently affecting Malaysia's youth.

### Learning and teaching



HWUM Open Days were held at the Malaysia campus last month. Mandy Wong and Zuhrah Beevi spoke to potential applicants and demonstrated conditioning by training hamsters to run a maze!