

Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

November 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).



Follow our updates on Twitter [@HWPsych](#)

5 years of International Psychology Conference Dubai!



Over two days last month, the International Psychology Conference Dubai (IPCD) was hosted at Heriot-Watt Dubai. Now in its fifth year, the conference theme, "Change is now the norm", reflects the mission of IPCD to explore the role psychologists and related professionals have in enabling positive change. Presentations and workshops covered four dedicated streams: Counselling and Clinical, Business and Occupational, Educational and Child, and Coaching. Congratulations to the team in Dubai for organising another fantastic event, and here's to the next five years! Find out more about IPCD at <http://www.psych-me.com/>



Forthcoming events

Research Seminars

- Psychology Research Showcase

22 November, JN116

[Abstract](#) | [Register](#)

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](#).

Garraffa, M., Obregon, M. & Sorace, A. (2017). Linguistic and Cognitive Effects of Bilingualism with Regional Minority Languages: A Study of Sardinian-Italian Adult Speakers. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 8:1907. [doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01907](#)

Parra, M. A., Baez, S., Allegri, R., Nitrini, R., Lopera, F., Slachevsky, A., Custodio, N., Lira, D., Piguat, O., Kumfor, F., Huepe, D., Cogram, P., Bak, T., Manes, F., & Ibanez, A. (in press). Dementia in Latin America: Assessing the present and envisioning the future. *Neurology* ([abstract](#)).

New funding

Trujillo, N., Parra M. A., Escudero, J., Lopez, J. D., Trujillo, S. P., & Ugarriza, J. E. Identification of biopsychosocial profiles in individuals chronically exposed to the Colombia's armed conflict: strategies towards person-centred social reintegration programs. *Colciencias*, 762.415.514 COP (~£191,025.109), 36 months.

Gow, A. J. Cycling Without Age. School of Social Sciences Internal Research Grant, £2,160, October 2017-March 2019.

In the news

[Cutting edge robot could reduce autistic unemployment rate](#) (Peter McKenna)

The Scotsman: [Edinburgh robot could help autistic adults find work](#) (Peter McKenna)

Scottish Daily Mail: [Robot will help autistic adults cope with work](#) (Peter McKenna)

BBC Radio Scotland: [Newsdrive](#) (listen from 55:46) (Peter McKenna)

BBC Radio 4: [How to build a better brain](#) (Episode 1) (Alan Gow)

Conferences and outreach activities

Our next Psychology Research Seminar is our Research Showcase on 22 November. Presentations will cover our past, present and future research, as well as our public engagement activities and there will be the opportunity to view research posters and meet our academic and researcher staff, and PhD students. The event is free, but please [register](#).

Event details for the next seminars are above with a fuller list on the [Facebook](#) page.

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

Garraffa, M. (2017). Superseding the language: language and cognitive abilities in Sardinian-Italian speakers. Department of Linguistics, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 2nd November.

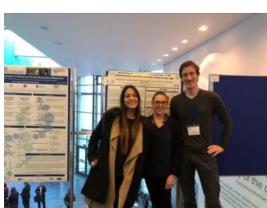
Garraffa, M. (2017). Bilingualism and language impairment: from knowing to doing ([CPD for SLTs](#)). Department of Clinical Speech and Language Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 2nd November.

Garraffa, M. (2017). Bilingualism in the classroom ([CPD for Primary school teachers](#)). Department of Clinical Speech and Language Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 3rd November.

McKenna, P. E., Lim, M. Y., Ghosh, A., Aylett, R., Broz, F., & Rajendran, G. (2017). Do you think I approve of that? Designing facial expressions for a robot. Proceedings of International Conference of Social Robotics (ICSR): Ninth International Conference of Social Robotics: Embodied Interactive Robots, Tsukuba, Japan.

Sobieraj, N. (2017). Health and informatics framework for the assessment and intervention of elderly people at risk of dementia. EU/Latin American Countries (LAC) Conference, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK.

Sobieraj, N., Hoefelijzers, S., Calia, C., & Parra, M. (2017). Unveiling the cognitive underpinnings of the instrumental activities of daily living across age. NRS Mental Health Network ASM. Glasgow, UK; and NHS Research Scotland (NRS) Annual Conference, Perth, UK.



Learning and teaching



In Dubai, MSc Business Psychology students represented Propel International (a talent management consultancy) at the recent HR Summit 2017. This was the outcome of a very successful inter-school programme set up by the team, who were very proud to see students staffing their stand at the event and getting involved.

In Edinburgh, final year Psychology and Interpreting/Translation students took part in a three-day workshop "Lost in BSL translation: Psychology meets BSL interpreters". The workshop, hosted by Anna Sedda, Maria Garraffa and Stacey Webb (LINCS), was supported by the Heriot-Watt Annual Fund. The aim was to promote awareness of the needs of deaf individuals in health settings in both future psychologists and British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters and translators via formal training and role-play, where professional psychologists and BSL interpreters, together with deaf individuals acting as patients, actively interacted with students in mock clinical settings.

The second undergraduate Open Day was held at the Edinburgh campus in October, with Maria Garraffa, Dan Hale, Thusha Rajendran and Alan Gow fielding questions from potential applicants across the day.



Professional development

Alan Gow has taken on an Impact Champion role within SoSS alongside Graham Turner (LINCS) as part of the ongoing preparations for the next REF exercise.