

Welcome to the latest Psychology newsletter

September 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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Forthcoming events

Research Seminars

- Fabio Sani (Univ. Dundee)
20 September, JN116

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

- Leonardo Bevilacqua (UCL)
11 October, JN116

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

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

Farewell...and welcome!

At the end of last month we bid a fond farewell to Nicola McGuigan as she takes up a new post at the University of the West of Scotland. Nicola joined Heriot-Watt in 2006 and has made valuable contributions to every aspect of our work over that time, including awards in the Learning and Teaching Oscars and more recently the Principal's Senior Public Engagement Prize. We wish her every success for the future.

It is of course time to welcome our new and returning students too, and we've been delighted to see everyone taking part in the various welcome events last week and back in class this week across our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Edinburgh, Dubai and Malaysia. A special welcome also to Aliko Papa and Calum Marr who join us as new PhD students.

Latest publications



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

Riches, N. G. & Garraffa, M. (2017). A discourse account of intervention phenomena: An investigation of interrogatives. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 2, 74. [doi: 10.5334/gjgl.100](#)

Stewart, M. E., Petrou, A., & Ota, M. (in press). Categorical speech perception across the autism spectrum and its relation to cognitive and language ability. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. [doi: 10.1007/s10803-017-3284-0](#)

Cecchini, M. A., Yassuda, M. S., Bahia, V. S., de Souza, L. C., Guimarães, H. C., Caramelli, P., Carthery-Goulart, M. T., Patrocínio, F., Foss, M. P., Tumas, V., Lima-Silva, T. B., Brucki, S. M. D., Nitrini, R., Della Sala, S., Parra, M. A. (in press). Recalling feature bindings differentiates Alzheimer's disease from Frontotemporal Dementia. *Journal of Neurology*. [doi:10.1007/s00415-017-8614-9](#)

Research updates

As part of a UK-Latin America Brain Connectivity Research Network, Mario Parra and colleagues launched a new laboratory at the Surcolombiana University, Colombia. This will advance research in dementia in the southern region of Colombia. [Read more...](#)

Yiannis has launched a new lab booking system for our testing rooms on the Edinburgh campus. Users just need to check the boxes for the weeks, days and times they need to book a lab, then enter their HWU email address and name. The new system can be found on our lab booking page [here](#).

In the news

[Academics tread the boards at this year's Fringe Festival](#) (Alan Gow)

[Research the Fringe 2017](#)

[Pepper CBBC interview](#)

[New virtual reality research could benefit people with Alzheimer's disease](#) (Nicola Sobieraj)

[Focusing on R&D](#)

[Meet our Dementia Research Leaders](#) (Michael Craig)

[Hyping evidence harms trust in research](#) (Alan Gow)

[When it comes to keeping our brains young, we need to rise to new challenges](#) (Alan Gow)

Conferences and outreach activities

Our Psychology Research Seminars restart this month; event details above and on the [Facebook](#) page.

Researchers again took centre stage at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August as part of the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas. [Read more...](#)

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

Kempe V, Cichon, K, Gauvrit, N & Tamariz M (2017). Iterated teaching can optimize language functionality. In G. Gunzelmann, A. Howes, T. Tenbrink, & E. J. Davelaar (Eds.), Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society. Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Craig, M., Wolbers, T., & Dewar, M. (2017). Awake quiescence enhances spatial memory of a virtual reality town. Symposium: Memory for events - recall of real and virtual experiences. British Psychological Society Cognitive Section meeting, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, 31st August.

McKenna, P. E., Manches, A., Rajendran, G., & Robertson, J. (2017). Embodied Metaphors and Computing Education. European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI): Education in the Crossroads of Economy and Politics. Tampere, Finland, 27th August-2nd September.

Gow, A. J. & Vaportzis, E. (2017). What Keeps You Sharp? A national survey of beliefs about, and knowledge of, cognitive ageing. Poster presentation at the Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology (CCACE) Annual Research Day, Edinburgh, UK, 5th September.

Learning and teaching



As we welcomed our new and returning students across all three campuses, a range of induction events were held for our First Year and Direct Entry students. In Edinburgh, those were led by Michaela and Anna, and supported by Mel and Monica. Special thanks to our student volunteers who helped over those sessions to ensure our new students got a warm and friendly welcome.

With the new academic year, some of our Year Coordinator roles have been updated. If you have a question about a specific year, the people to contact in the first instance are:

Year 1: Monica Tamariz
Year 2: Mel Mckendrick
Year 3: Daniel Hale
Year 4: Alan Gow

Full contact details for all staff can be found [here](#).

Professional development

Best wishes to Mei Yii Lim, one of the postdoctoral researchers with the Neurophysiology Lab, as she starts her maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the new arrival.

Ria Vaportzis started the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice this month, the university's two-year part-time programme for staff who support student learning.

And congratulations again to Lorraine Douglas as the corrections on her PhD were approved. Congratulations Dr Douglas!