Jet engine exhibit lands in Manchester
As many of you will be aware, over the past few weeks there has been a nationwide series of protest on university campuses - including our own - to express solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza. Some have demonstrated the strength of their convictions by occupying University buildings and serving their universities with a series of demands.

The University accepts the right of all students to protest peacefully, provided only that they do so lawfully, that their actions do not unduly, or for an extended period, disrupt the conduct of the University's normal business, and that the safety and well-being of the University community, including the protesters themselves, are not jeopardised.

In relation to the current protests, the University has recognised from the outset that great humanitarian and political issues are involved. On the one hand, I have expressed pride in being part of a university community in which students feel sufficiently strongly about the great issues of the day to take direct action to have their voices heard; on the other, it has been clear to me that the University must never identify itself as an institution with any particular political, social or ideological position, and must ensure that alternative views, lawfully expressed, also have an equal right to be heard.

People will have their own strongly felt views about recent events in Gaza. Like most people, I have been very concerned by what we have all been hearing and have my own views about the kinds of steps that need to be taken on both sides if lasting peace is finally to replace the desperate cycles of alienation, mutual mistrust, poverty, violence and conflict that have endured in Palestine for fully 60 years.

But as the person ultimately responsible to the Board of Governors for the good management of the University, my personal views are irrelevant. My job is to balance the rights of the protesters, irrespective of the nature, validity and/or intensity of their views, against the rights of the wider University community. My responsibility is to ensure that in doing this I at all times uphold certain key underlying values and principles.

One implication of those principles is that, while individuals and groups within the University community are empowered and encouraged to express lawful views on any issue whatever, the University as a University may not, and will not, issue statements about any matter not directly related to its core educational mission.

This is a principle that protects academic freedom.

As an institution embracing academic freedom, we welcome the lawful expression by students and staff of strongly held views, and accept the right of those advocating such views to assert them in ways designed to confront the rest of us with the issues involved. I am pleased to be President and Vice-Chancellor of a University whose students think deeply and feel strongly about current issues facing their own or other societies. In particular, I accept the right of groups of students to organise protests as means of drawing attention to their causes. All such protests must, however, remain peaceful.

The right to lawful protest in The University of Manchester is restricted, not by any limit to freedom of expression, but by the fact that a judgement has to be made eventually about the balance between the rights of the protestors on the one hand and, on the other, the rights of all the University's other students, staff and visitors to go about their business safely, unimpeded and free from harassment.

The judgement required is particularly acute where a protest is taking place in a University building. In these circumstances, we must ensure that protestors have a reasonable opportunity to assert their views while also ensuring that the University's ability to conduct its normal business is not unduly disrupted over an extended period. Along with my senior colleagues, I have as President and Vice-Chancellor the responsibility for managing this delicate balance, knowing that it is never possible to satisfy everyone.

So I do not expect everyone to be pleased with the way we have handled and are handling the protests. But I can give an assurance that our approach is being informed by deeply-held principles rooted in the highest ideals that the idea of a University evokes. That will not change.

Letter from the President

Alan Gilbert
President and Vice-Chancellor
**Singapore looks to Manchester for Optometry**

The University of Manchester has signed an agreement with Singapore Polytechnic and NHG Eye Institute@TTSH (Tan Tock Seng Hospital) to run the country’s first degree course in Optometry.

With four out of five male teenagers in Singapore suffering short-sightedness (myopia), the country is desperate for fully-trained optometrists.

The Bachelor of Science (with Honours) in Optometry, which includes a placement at the hospital, boasts $2 million of new equipment and facilities.

Professor Stirling said: “The University of Manchester has long been an important centre for Optometry, and the British Optical Association was founded at the University in 1964. Manchester also has a long history of working in Singapore and we have been welcoming Singaporean students to our city for many years. “This new validated degree programme with Singapore Polytechnic is the latest development in this tradition of co-operation and collaboration.”
University Challenge
Manchester has narrowly failed to achieve a second series victory in four years in the long-running television quiz University Challenge.

Following series victory in 2005/06 and the runner-up's spot in 2006/07 for Manchester, the 2008/09 team made it three finals in four years by beating Lincoln College, Oxford, in the semi-final by a convincing margin of 345-30.

They then took an early lead in the final against Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and held it until Corpus Christi overtook them in the last five minutes and went on to win 275-190.

The team comprised Matthew Yeo (captain) (PhD in the History of the Book), Simon Baker (Politics and Modern History), Henry Pertinez (PhD in Pharmacokinetics) and Reuben Roy (Medicine).

The University of Manchester nevertheless has a record in the competition which is second-to-none, having reached at least the semi-finals every year for the last five years. Team organiser Stephen Pearson of the John Rylands University Library will be selecting the team for the 2009/2010 series later this month.

New Darwin specimen discovered at the Museum
The Manchester Museum recently discovered a specimen of sea stock collected by Charles Darwin in its collection which specimen had been hidden away in the Museum's collection for around 100 years.

Previously overlooked, as there was no direct reference to Darwin on its label, the sea stock's genuine identity was pieced together from known facts, including the name of Darwin's tutor - Professor John Stevens Henslow – at the University of Cambridge, and Darwin's location in Barmouth, Wales in August 1831, found on the specimen label.

With a corresponding specimen in their own collection, colleagues at the University of Cambridge confirmed that it was a genuine Darwin specimen.

Curator of Botany at The Manchester Museum, Leander Wolstenholme commented, “We are delighted to find this specimen in the collection. To have any Darwin specimen in the collection is very special. We are very lucky in the Museum, as we already have thirteen specimens collected by Darwin during his voyage of the Beagle."

“This particular specimen relates to Darwin's earlier life and was collected during his vacation just after he finished university. He would have collected the specimen about two months before he set sail on the Beagle. At the time of its picking, Darwin had no inkling that he was about to set forth on one of the most legendary scientific journeys of all time.”

The sea stock specimen came to the Museum through a Victorian network of specimen exchanges or swapping societies which were very popular in the 19th Century.

This specimen and others collected by Darwin, was put on public display at the Museum's Big Darwin Birthday Bash on Saturday 14 February held to mark Darwin’s 200th birthday.

Top scientist visits
Professor John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser toured the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, during a day-long visit to the University.

During the visit Professor Beddington visited Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre (MIB) and the Joule Centre for Energy Research in the North West.

He witnessed a demonstration of the wave tank in the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering.

Also he heard about research in the Sygena Sensors University Innovation Centre (UIC) that could reduce the amount of food that is wasted in transit across the globe (see page 9).

Commenting on the visit, Professor John Perkins, Vice-President and Dean for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, said: "We were delighted to welcome John Beddington to the University and to show him some of the University's ground-breaking research on issues of global importance."

Professor Beddington is pictured (above left) with Professor John Perkins during a tour of the North Campus.
UK’s first virtual awards ceremony

Senior BP executives from around the globe gathered in Manchester Business School’s Second Life to take part in the UK’s first virtual awards ceremony last month.

On 17 February, the first cohort to complete BP’s project management course at Manchester Business School were awarded their certificates in the virtual world of Second Life, complete with specially designed graduation gowns, lifelike avatars of dignitaries, an academic procession (pictured above) and speeches.

The virtual awards ceremony is the culmination of the year-long programme which enables BP executives from the UK, USA, Canada, Angola, Indonesia, Alaska and Russia to apply the latest business thinking to practical challenges they are facing in their business life.

The ceremony took place in the Whitworth Room of Manchester Business School’s Second Life Island. Created by Corporation Pop, the Whitworth Room forms part of the School’s space-age tower structure in the virtual world and takes inspiration (in name only) from Whitworth Hall where the University holds its real-life graduation ceremonies.

During the ceremony the student-controlled avatars climbed the stage to receive their certificates and scripted handshakes enabled them to be congratulated by the Dean, as in real-life. They were given a hyperlink to a website where certificates could be downloaded and following the event received a machinima (filmmaking in a virtual space) souvenir film of the ceremony.

Dom Raban, managing director of Corporation Pop who managed the event said: “It would be almost impossible for 18 of BP’s senior executives, who are spread across the globe, to take part in a traditional awards ceremony. By holding it virtually, we have made it possible for them to be rewarded for their achievements with minimal disruption, saving time and money as well as reducing environmental impact.”

Professor Michael Luger, Director and Dean of Manchester Business School said: “MBS’ innovative approach to e-learning is driving our presence in Second Life – adding value to the real time experience of our students. The award ceremony for BP executives is the first of its kind in the UK and we are delighted that we can bring the cohort together to celebrate their achievements in this way.”

Applications are welcome from individuals with a record of achievement within or outside their careers which can be applied in a variety of ways to benefit the University. Applicants should be in sympathy with the values of higher education and with the aims and objectives of a university that is pursuing an ambitious agenda for the future. The appointments are unpaid and are not open to anyone holding any paid positions within the University.

The closing date for applications is 3 April 2009.

For further information and an application form, please visit:

www.manchester.ac.uk/legacy

Legacy Scheme

Alumni, staff, former staff, friends and partners have been among those who have already remembered the University in their wills.

Since the merger of the two universities in 2004, The University of Manchester has received more than £4 million from supporters as part of the Legacy Programme.

A Legacy is a gift left in a will. By making such a gift to the University, it can have a real and enduring effect by speeding up vital research; strengthening an academic discipline; helping to attract the best undergraduate and postgraduate students, irrespective of their personal circumstances; and helping to recruit the best teachers and researchers.

Among those who have made donations are Miss Margaret Blount, who received a BA (Hons) History in 1951 and an MA in History in 1974, whose gift provided for the John Rylands University Library’s book fund; Emeritus Professor William Brice, who was a long-serving professor in the Department of Geography, whose gift supports vacation study for undergraduates; and Miss Betty Kemp, who received a BA (Hons) History in 1940 and who lectured for a time at the University, whose gift has supported the Department of History.

Further information about the University’s Legacy Brochure can be found at the web address below.

Contact Louise Hancock, Division of Development and Alumni Relations, 0161 275 7230

www.manchester.ac.uk/alumni/donorprogrammes/legacy
Medals of Honour

The University awarded Medals of Honour to two distinguished individuals last month. The Medal of Honour is the highest non-degree award bestowed by the University and is given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the work of the University, city or region.

Bill Williams, renowned for his work on oral history and his studies of the history of Jews in Manchester and Jane Davies, Chief Executive of Manchester Science Park Limited (msp) were the recipients.

Mr Williams, who is based at the University’s Centre for Jewish studies, has a distinguished career spanning more than 40 years. He helped to establish Manchester Jewish Museum in 1984 and became its first chairman of trustees and has produced a series of landmark studies in local history. Between 1988 and 1991, he coordinated interviews with Holocaust survivors for the National Sound Archive. And in 1993, he became a lecturer and research supervisor in Religions and Theology at The University of Manchester, retiring from that role in 2006.

Since 2002 he has managed a research project funded by the Association of Jewish Refugees. Co-director of the Centre for Jewish Studies, Professor Philip Alexander, was one of the scholars who nominated him for the award. He said: “Bill has shown incredible dedication to the city of Manchester and its Jewish community. His pioneering methods of research, such as the use of oral testimony, serve as a blueprint to historians worldwide.

“We are immensely grateful for his long and distinguished service to the Centre for Jewish Studies, where he is held in high esteem by students and colleagues alike.”

Jane Davies was appointed Chief Executive of msp in October 2000. Acknowledged as one of the UK’s most successful science parks, msp, was established in 1984 adjacent to the academic campus.

A partnership between the city of Manchester, the universities and commercial investors, the Science Park is now home to more than 100 high tech organisations creating more than 1000 jobs in key regeneration areas such as Hulme and East Manchester.

Jane’s previous roles include PVC plant chemist, international oil trader in New York, opera festival director, FCO planner and regional manager of BP’s international aviation business.

Jane’s influence and profile has been recognised by her election as current Chair of the UK Science Park Association. In June 2006 she was elected Chairman of the European Division of the International Association of Science Parks – a two-year appointment. She is also a Director of Manchester Enterprises, the economic development agency for Greater Manchester and of the Oxford Road Corridor Investment Partnership.

Professor Rod Coombs, Vice-President (Innovation And Economic Development), who presented Jane at the award ceremony, said “Jane Davies has led msp superbly, with the result that it is now seen as one of the most successful science parks in the country. This is a tremendous asset to the city and to The University of Manchester. We all owe her a lot.”

Sir David Attenborough celebrates Darwin with Nowgen

Staff from Nowgen recently demonstrated their latest practical work to Sir David Attenborough. The renowned natural scientist visited the Wellcome Collection to launch a set of Darwin 200 initiatives, funded by The Wellcome Trust.

The Survival Rivals project, which celebrates Darwin’s 200th birthday, will provide every secondary school student in the UK with the chance to take part in Darwin-inspired experiments.

Nowgen has been commissioned by the Wellcome Trust to develop practical workshops for A-level students, which will be delivered from the Nowgen laboratory, along with two other national science centres.

Leah Holmes of Nowgen said, “It was so exciting even to be in the same room as Sir David; his energy and enthusiasm for inspiring young people truly shone through. With this practical we have really pushed the boundaries of A-level practical work, bringing it up-to-date with current research.”

Professor Terry Brown and Dr Matthew Cobb from the Faculty of Life Sciences have also contributed to the project, providing background information on human evolution and our sense of taste.

Nowgen, a Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, is part of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences. Its education programme aims to engage with young people about genetics and associated issues. Nowgen will be delivering 75 laboratory-based workshops exploring human evolution for post-16 students from September 2009 onwards. Enthusiastic postgraduate students will be recruited to help deliver this programme. For more information, please contact: leah.holmes@manchester.ac.uk.

For further information about the Wellcome Trust’s Darwin initiatives please see the web address below.
North West start up of the year

Dr Andrew Almond and his colleagues at the drug discovery spin-out company Conformetrix have scooped the BioNoW Biomedical Start Up of the Year Award for 2008.

Conformetrix Ltd is an early-stage drug discovery company providing novel chemistry Intellectual Property to the wider drug discovery industry. The platform technology, developed by Dr Almond at the Faculty of Life Sciences, came from his research into the 3D structures of complex sugar molecules and how they interact with proteins. The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) - funded technology gives Conformetrix a competitive advantage in drug discovery, since they are the only company in the world that can solve the dynamic 3D-shapes of drug molecules. This information gives unique insight into how drugs work and, more importantly, how to quickly and efficiently improve hit selection or lead compound development.

BioNoW is the North West Development Agency's biotechnology, pharmaceutical and healthcare cluster programme.

For more information see the web address below.

www.conformetrix.com

It’s a ‘YES’ for postgrads

A team of postgraduates at the Faculty of Life Sciences scooped a coveted prize at the Biotechnology YES (Young Entrepreneurs’ Scheme) with their business plan for a hypothetical bioscience hair removal product FollCore.

Leon Adams, Annie Geraghty, Alexandra Hughes, Tom Longden and Laura Roberts won the Syngenta prize for ‘Best plant science-based business plan’ after competing against 73 teams from around the UK under the company name Follix.

Biotechnology YES is an entrepreneurial competition aimed at enhancing understanding of the importance of scientific research to the commercial sector.

The Follix team won their Central Regional heat, during which they also received three days of expert tuition on how to establish a viable and profitable company, in a Dragons’ Den-style competition in which contestants were required to present a realistic business plan for a hypothetical bioscience product to a panel of potential investors. The top three teams from each heat were then sent to the illustrious London final to compete for a £1,000 prize.

Professor Arthur Weston, one of the team’s supervisors, said: “The podcast of their brilliant and inspiring performance will surely become a model for participants in future competitions.” See link below for podcast.

http://streaming2.its.manchester.ac.uk:8080/lifesciences/Int/podcasts/BTY2.mov
Race 'myths' threaten racial harmony, say population experts

Race relations in Britain are under threat from a series of ill-informed myths according to a new book by two of the country’s leading experts on the topic.

Using previously unpublished evidence, Professor Ludi Simpson and Dr Nissa Finney from The University of Manchester show how repeated falsehoods about immigration, integration and segregation are misleading policy and promoting racial disharmony.

This is the basis of the authors’ new book ‘Sleepwalking to segregation? Challenging myths about race and migration’ published today by The Policy Press.

After years of investigation the pair, based in the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, have found no evidence “whatsoever” for the existence of race ghettos in the UK. In fact the opposite is true with increasing ethnic mixing.

And claims by head of equalities watchdog Trevor Phillips that Britain is “sleepwalking” into racial and religious segregation are also dismissed in the book.

According to the academics’ review of evidence, white flight is no greater than brown or black flight. And there is white movement into minority concentrations in Leicester, Bradford, Lambeth, Wolverhampton, Wycombe, Manchester and Merton.

By linking social problems to segregated areas, they say, politicians have stigmatised the areas and their residents.

The authors also provide evidence that areas with large populations of Muslims do not act as a ‘breeding ground’ for terrorism.

“By propagating myths using bogus and alarmist interpretations of population change, individuals such as Trevor Phillips, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester and Sir Andrew Green, Chair of Migration Watch are inadvertently promoting racial segregation,” said Professor Simpson.

“Misunderstanding breeds mistrust and division between ethnic and religious groups. This book is about dispelling those myths. The truth is that Britain’s so-called ghettos are diverse areas both ethnically and socially where no one ethnic group dominates.”
The millions of tonnes of food that are wasted on the journey from ‘farm to fork’ could be reduced, as a result of ongoing research at the University.

Today many of the foodstuffs we eat in the UK are grown in warmer climates of the world and can have travelled thousands of miles before their journey ends on a plate. But exposure to extreme heat or humidity during the journey can mean vast amounts of produce are unfit to eat by the time they reach the UK.

Now researchers at the Syngenta Sensors University Innovation Centre (UIC), in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, are looking at new ways of tracking food around the world more effectively.

Although data logging technology can already be packed alongside produce to show the point in the journey it was exposed to damaging levels of heat or humidity, the information it stores can only be accessed when the produce reaches its final destination. And that means it’s too late to have an impact on the condition of the produce itself.

But now scientists at the Syngenta Sensors UIC are developing low-cost radio frequency identification (RFID) sensors that could provide real-time information about the produce.

Data from these new sensors could be analysed at various stages of the journey using fixed data readers at warehouses, distribution centres or airports. And that information could be used to determine changes to the condition of the product and to assess any impact that could have on its shelf-life - leading to the setting of more scientific ‘best before’ dates.

Where necessary, the readings could prompt remedial action to preserve the produce en route. And where data suggested the produce would be inedible on arrival in the UK, it could be sold off locally - which would rule out unnecessary transport costs.

The development of the project has already brought together the expertise of electrical engineers, chemists, physicists and experts from the Manchester Business School.

Dr Bruce Grieve, from the Syngenta Sensors UIC, is pictured with the Government’s Chief Scientific Adviser Professor John Beddington CMG.

As part of the research Professor Geim and Dr Novoselov used hydrogen to modify highly conductive graphene into a new two-dimensional crystal - graphane.

The addition of a hydrogen atom on each of the carbon atoms in the graphene achieved the new material without altering or damaging the distinctive one-atom-thick “chicken wire” construction itself.

But instead of being highly conductive, like graphene, the new substance - graphane - has insulating properties.

The researchers say the findings demonstrate that the material can be modified using chemistry - clearing the way for the discovery of further graphene-based chemical derivatives.

The unique electronic properties of graphene have already led researchers to look at ways the material could be used in the development of increasingly small and fast transistors. However, the absence of the energy gap in the electronic spectra forced scientists to use rather complex graphene-based structures like quantum point contacts and quantum dots for this purpose.

The discovery that graphene can be modified into new materials, fine tuning its electronic properties, has opened up the increasingly rich possibilities in the development of future electronic devices from this truly versatile material.

Professor Geim said: “The modern semiconductor industry makes use of the whole period table: from insulators to semiconductors to metals.

“But what if a single material is modified so that it covers the entire spectrum needed for electronic applications?”
‘Rajendrapur Conversation’ reveals suffering of Bangladesh’s urban poor

A team led by the Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) has returned from Bangladesh with an action research plan to try and help urban poor people adapt their homes and livelihoods to withstand the effects of climate change.

One of the major findings of the ‘Rajendrapur Conversation’ (reported in last month’s LinLife) launched in partnership with BRAC University in Dhaka is that ‘climate variability’ is dramatically impacting on Bangladesh’s slum dwellers now, with worse to come under accelerated climate change.

The team spent four days talking to poor people living in urban slums; visiting a waste management plant; and discussing adaptation with fellow researchers, NGOs and practitioners.

Professor David Hulme of BWPI said: “What the urban poor have told us is a wake-up call. Poverty in Bangladesh is no longer a rural problem. Rural migrants, who have been forced from their areas by extreme weather are living in overcrowded, unsanitary slums in the towns and cities, where they are being affected again and again by climate variability.”

Thirty five per cent of Dhaka’s people live in slums that occupy just four per cent of the land, and lie within the areas most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Some estimates put 55 per cent of the 153 million population of Bangladesh at risk and in need of finding a new home and livelihood in urban areas.

“It’s difficult to predict how large the migration will be, but it’s certain that an increased urban poor population and accelerated climate change is going to have a devastating impact,” said Professor Hulme.

“A huge problem is that poor people don’t own land. This prevents the building of an infrastructure and perpetuates an uncertain future. People live in flimsily constructed single-storey dwellings in slums that can be 200 times more densely populated than other parts of Dhaka,” he added.

Parkinson’s researcher wins top award

Chris Kobylecki has won the Liversedge Prize for best scientific presentation for his talk on dyskinesia, a disabling side-effect of drugs used to treat Parkinson’s Disease (PD).

Chris, a Clinical Neurology Research Training Fellow in the Faculty of Life Sciences, is researching the effect of the drug L-DOPA as many patients who take it develop disabling abnormal involuntary movements or dyskinesia. He and Professor Alan Crossman are working on the chemical messenger glutamic acid, indicating potential future targets for treatment of PD.

Chris, who was presented with the £500 prize at the North of England Neurological Association, said: “I was very pleased to have been selected for this award and feel that this underlines the potential clinical relevance of our research.”

Professor Crossman added: “There is no effective treatment available for dyskinesias, so Chris’s work is addressing an important area of unmet clinical need.”

www.bwpi.manchester.ac.uk
Rising sea threatens coastline

Experts at The University of Manchester are to produce a detailed picture of the public’s views on the uncertain future of a 250-mile-stretch of coastline.

Large parts of the coast between Anglesey and Carlisle are likely to be adversely affected by rising sea levels and erosion over the next hundred years.

The area is home to some of Britain’s most celebrated wildlife, important transport links, densely populated coastal towns and cities and the nuclear plant at Sellafield.

Drs Richard Kingston and Adam Barker from the University’s School of Environment and Development have launched a website which allows the public to add their views to an online coastal map.

“The Lancashire, Cumbrian and Welsh coastlines contain a number of low lying or vulnerable sections which are particularly at risk from the adverse impacts of climate change.

“If local agencies are forced to abandon sections of our coast to the advancing sea, then this can only be effectively done with the knowledge and understanding of local communities,” said Dr Barker.

“Clearly it’s a pressing issue: large parts of the coastline - some of which are highly populated - are likely to recede. At the same time however, local authorities are under pressure to release more land for development.

“Something needs to be done to manage this transition as effectively as possible and to involve the people who live in these areas in the decision-making process.”

Threatened areas include Morecambe Bay where the historic St Peter’s Church in Heysham is under attack from coastal erosion.

And Formby Sands in Lancashire - home to endangered red squirrels and the rare Natterjack toad could recede by more than 400 meters in 100 years according to research carried out by the National Trust last year.

The maps are available at the web address below.

http://mycoastline.org/

Vitamin D may be a gain for the brain

Eating fish – long considered ‘brain food’ – may really be good for the old grey matter, as is a healthy dose of sunshine, new research suggests.

University of Manchester scientists, in collaboration with colleagues from other European centres, have shown that higher levels of vitamin D – primarily synthesised in the skin following sun exposure but also found in certain foods such as oily fish – are associated with improved cognitive function in middle-aged and older men.

The study, published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, compared the cognitive performance of more than 3,000 men aged 40 to 79 years at eight test centres across Europe.

The researchers found that men with higher levels of vitamin D performed consistently better in a simple and sensitive neuropsychological test that assesses an individual’s short-term memory, attention and speed of information processing.

“Previous studies exploring the relationship between vitamin D and cognitive performance in adults have produced inconsistent findings but we observed a significant, independent association between a slower information processing speed and lower levels of vitamin D,” said lead author Dr David Lee, in Manchester’s School of Translational Medicine.

“The main strengths of our study are that it is based on a large population sample and took into account potential interfering factors, such as depression, season and levels of physical activity.

“Interestingly, the association between increased vitamin D and faster information processing was more significant in men aged over 60 years, although the biological reasons for this remain unclear”.

“The positive effects vitamin D appears to have on the brain need to be explored further but certainly raise questions about its potential benefit for minimising ageing-related declines in cognitive performance.”

Safety guide launched for new 3-D dental scans

Important new guidelines for dentists using the latest three-dimensional imaging system in their surgeries have been established for UK and European practitioners.

Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT), which gives a similar kind of image as a medical CT scan, is now available in high-street dental practices to give high-definition, 3D scans of patients’ jaws and teeth.

However, CBCT carries an increased risk associated with greater radiation dose than traditional dental X-rays, so the European Academy of Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (EADMFR) has developed 20 ‘Basic Principles’ for use of CBCT in dentistry.

Professor Keith Horner, who is heading the project in the School of Dentistry, said: “In many European countries, dentists can purchase and use CBCT without any additional training and so there was a pressing need to establish some guidelines.”
No-one knows more about Manchester’s gangs than Rob Ralphs. He was brought up around them. That inside knowledge and what might be called his “street cred” has been invaluable in establishing him as one of the country’s leading researchers in this hard-to-penetrate underworld.

His beginnings – he was brought up in a two-bed terrace in Gorton, the youngest of seven children, and went to what was acknowledged to be amongst the worst schools in the country - also underpins his resolve to make a positive contribution to the community way beyond his academic work. He is an experienced youth and community volunteer, qualified sports coach, treasurer of Moss Side’s anti-gun crime group Mothers Against Violence and a keen supporter and worker in the University’s Widening Participation and Manchester Leadership initiatives.

“When I was at school, the thought of being able to go to college wasn’t on the agenda at all,” he says. “You were considered like Einstein if you had an A-level, never mind a degree! As young people leaving school we knew - or at least we perceived - that we were stigmatised because of the place we lived and the school we went to. It’s the same with kids I’m involved with now from M16, Moss Side, and surrounding areas who say they are stigmatised because of where they live. I see lots of similarities – and that makes me determined to help. I believe in helping to widen participation and in making the university part of the community.”

He is deeply involved in consultation about police operations and strategies with particular focus on gangs and gun crime, on a local level as Secretary and Member of the Independent Advisory Group for M Division of the Greater Manchester Police and on a national level through involvement in various Home Office Roundtables and the recent Street Weapons Commission. He has clearly earned respect from all sides of the community – gangs, police and parents of victims of crime. And way beyond Manchester, he is currently involved in research and consultancy on gang, gun and knife crime to Hackney Borough Council in London, the North West Development Agency and to the Scottish government.
fire service when he was 16. “I hated it and soon left and then I managed to get a job with the CIS – as an accounts assistant, which ultimately meant stapling cheques to insurance letters,” he says.

Disillusioned with unrewarding early employment experiences, at 18, he took off for two years to travel with a girlfriend: “We worked our way round the world and learned a lot about different cultures and different people, including the value placed on education. We got to know prostitutes in Thailand, most of whom were working to better themselves and pay for their siblings education. In countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia I discovered how highly British education was rated.”

That experience stimulated his growing interest in further education and realisation that he was fortunate to have free access to education. He returned to Manchester, enrolled at MANCAT – and emerged as a qualified coach in a dozen sports, from basketball to weight-lifting (“I’m still a keen sportsman and include football, running and weight-training in my leisure interests,” he says.). He also started working in youth clubs. After another spell travelling in South East Asia, he decided to try to get to university – and, aged 25, after an Access course, he made it. In 1994, he went to Salford to study Sociology and Criminology. He emerged with a First and a special award as Student of the Year.

He may have been a late starter, but he had clearly found his niche. He got a bursary to study at postgraduate level at this University – and began his distinguished research career. He pays ready tribute to the support he received from Professor Mike Savage. Around that time, the Manchester Foyer opened, taking a holistic approach to young people’s problems as they made the transition to adulthood. Naturally, Rob got very involved – just his territory. His research focused on young people, especially drug use, and won him an offer from the MMU to do a PhD. The title of his thesis was: Beyond Transitions: Problematizing the experience of young people in contemporary society – an ethnographic study of their experiences of education, work, housing and family transitions.

His qualitative research into young people, from drug culture to gang culture, was encouraged by Judith Aldridge and Dr Juanjo Medina-Ariza in the School of Law. This year alone, together and with others, they have presented and published many papers and special reports, including the ethics and politics of doing gang research, and are contributors to the Eurogang Network collection.

This University is the only one in the UK with a specialist gang research unit. Consequently Rob and his colleagues and regularly contacted by the media and officials for comments and advice. For his own part, Rob is committed to continuing his research, involving himself in the total culture and helping to find solutions: “On a general level, I’m interested in engaging with the community and in opening up the university as a community resource. In terms of the gang conflict, I work with rival gangs in trying to establish residential weekends and mediation work with rival gang members.” Rob also supports local community groups who work with people affected by gangs by regularly running half and full marathons to raise much needed funds.

As part-time Research Associate and Teaching Assistant in the School of Law, and Associate Lecturer in Criminology at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), he has a significant academic role, of course, although he is still, aged 40, waiting for his first “proper job”. A quietly-spoken man, Rob is a living example of how precarious an academic life can be, for all his expertise, success and recognition. But he is not one to make a fuss – he focuses on his work, paid and voluntary.

Rob has now spent ten years researching how young people in Manchester and across the UK interact with gangs, drugs, crime and violence. He is currently a researcher for projects ranging from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) - funded Governing Drug-Related Crime in the Risk Society to the support needs of parents and siblings of gang members. And he recently completed another ESRC-funded project on Youth Gangs in an English city: Social Exclusion, Drugs and Violence.

Inevitably, he was a late starter. After leaving a notorious comprehensive school, with three GCSEs, Rob was taken into a YTS scheme in the

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**CV**

**Name**

Rob Ralphs

**Position**

Research Associate and Teaching Assistant, School of Law, The University of Manchester

**Education**

2005
Manchester Metropolitan University, PhD, Department of Sociology

1998
The University of Manchester, Postgraduate Diploma in Sociology ad Research Methods (Distinction)

1997
Salford University, BSc (Hons) Sociology and Criminology (First Class)

**Career**

January 2005 – present
Research Associate School of Law, The University of Manchester

October 2005 – present
Teaching Assistant, School of Law, The University of Manchester

September 1997 - present
Associate Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University

1998 to 2004
Temporary Part-Time Researcher, SPARC, Department of Applied Social Science, The University of Manchester

October 2002 to December 2002
Temporary Researcher, The Edge, Edge Lane, Manchester

2001 to 2002
Temporary Part-Time Lecturer, Department of Applied Social Science, The University of Manchester
MP investigates evolutionary leaps in Manchester

Labour MP Brian Iddon experienced leaps of evolution first hand when he visited Dr Chris Knight at the Faculty of Life Sciences (pictured right).

Dr Iddon, a member of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee, watched Dr Knight at work as part of the Royal Society’s MP-Scientist Pairing Scheme.

Bolton South East MP Dr Iddon, who is also a member of the School of Chemistry's External Advisory Body at Manchester, says: “As a Member of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee, a Vice-President of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and Chairman of the Board of the quarterly Journal ‘Science in Parliament’ it is very important that I learn about cutting edge science in a cutting edge university so that I can do my bit to keep my Parliamentary colleagues well informed. That’s why I like to keep in contact with the University’s scientists.

“In reverse, I believe that it is extremely important that scientists understand the tectonic plate shifts that have just occurred in the science budget grant allocations.”

Dr Knight uses yeast and other microbes to investigate evolution, specifically their tolerance to alcohol.

Alcohol is a poison but yeast is able to digest it and has been doing so for millions of years. By growing yeast in increasing levels of alcohol, he can investigate how they develop this tolerance, i.e. their evolution.

Dr Knight’s research will help us understand how a superbug evolves in a hospital - and potentially how to stop it in its tracks. In addition genome sequencing, such as the human genome project, is revealing the variety of ways DNA can change. Linking these evolutionary changes to medically important changes – for example how microbes cause disease and evade drugs - is an increasingly important area of research.

The animation generation

Computer scientists from the University of Manchester are challenging children and young people in the UK to create their own animated films, as part of a drive to inspire the next generation of computer scientists.

Staff at the University’s School of Computer Science came up with the idea for the UK Schools Computer Animation Competition last year to mark the 60th anniversary of the world’s first stored program computer, designed and built in Manchester.

And now in 2009 they are to repeat the competition - which has been called animation09 - to encourage a greater interest in computing amongst young people, aged seven to 19.

More than 430 schools across the country have already registered to take part in the competition.

The winners will have their films showcased at a high profile animation festival at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester in June.

Staff at the University’s School of Computer Science hope the competition will give young people a chance to explore computer animation for the first time.

Toby Howard, from the School, said: “The animation must be inspired in some way by the National Curriculum - but the only real limit will be the students’ imaginations.

“Since the launch of the first stored program computer at the University of Manchester 60 years ago, the progress of computing has been rapid.

“If that progress is to continue apace, we need to encourage the brightest and the best of the next generation to engage in the challenges facing computing.

“*And we hope this competition will go some way to raising the profile of computer science amongst children in a fun and exciting way.*

The competition is being run in partnership with Electronic Arts and MOSI.

Further information can be found at the web address below
Karen’s gallery aims to paint a positive picture

A community art gallery set up single-handedly by a member of University staff, which she hopes will provide a much-needed boost to Eccles town centre, opened its doors last month.

Lifelong art lover Karen Illingworth (pictured), a research technician in Clinical Neuroscience at Salford Royal Hospitals Trust, ran a successful trial opening last November from an empty shop in the town, and on 21 February re-opened with a special reception attended by members of Salford City Council among others.

Karen said “My passion in life is art, I have belonged to art groups for practically my whole life. I live in Eccles, and have been saddened to see the town centre decline over the last few years. In a chance conversation with the Shopping Centre Manager I said that I could help make the town centre a more interesting place to visit by opening a community art gallery in an empty shop unit in the town.”

Karen was offered an empty shop unit on the town’s Boothway and after a successful trial run in November she has now been offered the premises for a longer period, to run most Saturdays for the next six months, the next two opening dates are 7 and 14 March.

“I think we have potentially a really nice town centre with some nice restaurants and interesting shops but times are hard and many are closing.

“I run it by myself on a voluntary basis without any funding what-so-ever and I have incurred considerable costs in fitting out the unit with exhibition display boards,” said Karen. "I have tried fundraising to recover these costs but I am still around seven hundred pounds out of pocket at the moment.

The gallery displays the work of local art groups and also invited established artists who have a link to the area. These include former miner Tony Potter whose scenes of the former Newtown Colliery, Pendlebury generated much interest in November.

Anyone who would like to support Karen should contact her on 07981 791 475

WTCRF Open Day

The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility is holding a Public Open Day on 13 March as part of National Science Week. The event will run between 10am and 4pm and will be an opportunity to come into the WTCRF to find out more about what they do.

The Open Day will be an interactive day looking at clinical research and the impact of clinical research on the health service over the last 60 years. They will be providing a number of activities, tours and presentations for people of all ages, which will be informative, educational but, most of all, fun. The aim of the day is to forge closer links with the local community. There will also be opportunities to meet staff and to see what a difference clinical research makes.

For further information please contact Anna Kaufman on 0161 906 7515 or email: anna.kaufman@wtcrf.nhs.uk
Courses for the Public

The Poetry of Tennyson
Fri 6 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Roger Holdsworth

Richard II and Macbeth: The Politics of Power
Sat 7 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Malcolm Hicks

Technology and Society in the Ancient Mediterranean
Sat 7 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Maria Kostoglou

Are Addictive Personalities Born or Made?
Sat 7 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Natalie Zacek

Plants with Cryptic Lives
Mon 9 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Mark Leech and Dr Simon Cassidy

The American Civil War: A Transatlantic Conflict
Sat 7 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Maria Kostoglou

Introducing Beethoven’s Late Quartets (2)
Fri 13 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Carey Curtis

Anglesey: Archaeology and People
Fri 20 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Dr Jennifer Rowntree and Dr Liz Sheffield

In the Style of 19th Century Watercolour Artists
Sat 28 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Onyipreye Ekperi

The Style of the 19th Century Watercolour Artists
Sat 28 Mar, 10am - 4pm, £45
Jill Maguire

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Contact Theatre

Verbally Challenged
Wed 4 Mar, 7.30pm, £5
Five writers compete for your vote in order to win £100.

What’s So Funny?
Thurs 5 Mar, 8pm, £10
Stand-up comedy with Barbara Nice, Ray Kane, Kelly J Roberts, Godon Zola & The Band.

The Overcoat
Thurs 5 Mar to Sat 7 Mar, 8pm, £10 £6
A riotous blend of tragi-comedy, physical movement, silent film, and evocative music.

Polarbear: If I Cover My Nose You Can’t See Me
Fri 6 Mar to Sat 7 Mar, 8pm, £10 £6
A 21st century tale from Birmingham storyteller

Word Up Festival
Mon 9 Mar to Sat 14 Mar - Various times, Various prices
A week of new writing and spoken word events

Another Paradise by Sayan Kent
Thurs 12 Mar to Sat 14 Mar - 8pm £10 £6
A vivid high-tech comedy of mistaken identity

Sitaare 2009
Mon 16 Mar - 7pm £10 £6
Dance, drama, singing and music from the East

Air Time
Mon 16 Mar - 7.30pm £3 £2
Find out how Contact’s AIR Residents are progressing

Darwin’s Worms
Wed 18 Mar to Thurs 19 Mar - 7.30pm £10 £6
Live worms on stage celebrating the bicentenary of Charles Darwin’s birth!

Mission Possible: Dad’s & Lads Move!
Thurs 19 Mar - 8pm £10 £6
Hip-hop, physical theatre, street and contemporary dance

Destiny Chakra (Wheel of Destiny)
Friday 20 March - 8pm £8.50
Indian Diva Swanii Natekar invites you to a night of sumptious sounds

Hijak!
Sat 21 Mar - Various times FREE
Contact’s Creative Leaders take over the building for one night only

Palaver Festival
Mon 23 to Thurs 26 Mar - Various times Various prices
The Palaver Festival returns with a jam-packed line-up of events.

Verbally Challenged
Wed 1 April - 7.30pm £5
Five writers compete for your vote in order to win £100!

Paperweight
Sat 4 April – 1.30pm & 7.30pm £10 £6
Edinburgh Fringe award-winning tale of two men trapped in mindless office jobs.

Jodrell Bank

Moon Watch
Sat 4 April, 6.30-9.30pm
As part of the International year of Astronomy and National Science Week, we’re holding Moonwatch, your chance to have a closer look at the moon through an optical telescope, weather permitting. Moon talks and 3D theatre presentations are included in the ticket price, along with soup, roll and a hot drink. Tickets are limited.

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Jodrell Bank Observatory Visitor Centre
Macclesfield, Cheshire
01627 571339
www.manchester.ac.uk/jodrellbank/vision

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS
Lindow Man: A Bog Body Mystery until 19 April
The discovery of a preserved body of a man in a peat bog at Lindow Moss, Cheshire, in 1984. Seven different people provide a range of perspectives on the life and death of a man who returned to us after nearly two thousand years.

Lindow Moss: A Place of Finding until 12 July
This photographic exhibition documents the landscape at Lindow Moss, the mysterious place where the preserved body of Lindow Man was found.

Manchester Gallery opening 4 April
Explore the connections between the people of Manchester, the city’s history and the Museum’s collection in our new Manchester Gallery.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Big Saturday: Scientcastet
Sat 7 Mar, 11am-4pm
Celebrate National Science and Engineering Week and meet scientists from The University of Manchester.

Magic Carpet: What are things made from?
Fri 27 Mar, 11am-12pm
Explore the different materials on our galleries through stories and activities for aged under five.

Lindow Man: The Verdict
Sat 4 April, 1.30pm-3.30pm
Join our Museum court and present evidence to the judges about how Lindow Man died. Book on 0161 275 2648, FREE 10+

Elephant Story Time
Mon 6 April, 11.30am-12pm
Stories and activities for under five’s and their families.

Forensic Science: A Bog Body Mystery
Tues 7 April, 1.30pm-3.30pm
Can you solve the mystery? Become a forensic scientist using DNA analysis and archaeological evidence to unravel the puzzle of the mysterious find in Lindow Moss.

Iron Age Technology
Tues 7 April, 11am-4pm
Try out some iron Age Technology, such as making nettle string.

TALKS AND TOURS
Showcase Death on Display
Wed 4 March, 3-5pm, FREE
With Sam Alberts, The University of Manchester,

Human Remains Debate
Wed 11 March, 6-8pm, FREE
The Museum is interested in how people feel about the display of human remains. Join John Harris, Ermy Benbow, Piotr Bienkowski and Malcolm Chapman for this interactive debate.

Quiz Night
Thurs 12 March, 8.30-10pm, £1 per person, Cash Prize
Get those science egghead brains out for a science themed quiz in our café.

MANCHESTER CAFE SOCIETY
Manchester’s Café Society is a place where, for the price of a glass of wine or a cup of coffee, anyone can explore the latest ideas in science, culture and the arts. Talks are either in the café or the Museum’s Discovery Centre.

Opening hours
Open: Tues-Sat 10am - 5pm
Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11am - 4pm
FREE Admission

The Manchester Museum
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 2634
www.manchester.ac.uk/museum
Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 5 March, 1.10pm, FREE
Damien Girvin (piano)
Beethoven’s piano sonata, with its kaleidoscopic array of textures and expressive extremes, is preceded by a much loved work by Bach, a seldom played work by Brahms and a world premier of music by Manchester-based composer Helen Seddon-Gray

Thurs 12 March, 1.10pm, FREE
Quartet Daniel Lunchtime Concert
The colossal six movement Op.130, with its famous Cavatina, here given with the revised finale

Thurs 19 March, 1.10pm, FREE
Student Showcase
A recital featuring the talents of undergraduate and postgraduate star performers from the University of Manchester

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama
Bridgeford Street, Manchester M13 9PL
0161 275 8951/8950
email boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk
www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

International Society

WINTER TRIPS
Sat 7 March
Overnight trip to Bath with visit to Stonehenge
Yorkshire Dales visiting White Scar Caves and Skipton Castle
Liverpool

Sun 8 March
Robin Hood’s Bay and Whitby

Sun 15 March
Lake District visiting Windermere

Sun 22 March
Chester with guided walking tour

Sat 28 March
North Wales visiting Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway and Portmeirion Village

Sat 28 March
North Wales visiting Anglesey with guided tour

Sun 29 March
Alton Towers Theme Park

Sat 4 April
Blackpool

Sun 5 April
Peak District visiting The Heights of Abraham and Bakewell

Opening hours
Mon-Fri 9.30am–7pm (during term time)
Mon-Fri 9.30am–5pm (during vacation)
Small World Café opening hours
Mon-Fri 11am – 3pm

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)
0161 275 4959
email int.soc@anchester.ac.uk
www.internationalsociety.org.uk

The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS
Subversive Spaces, Surrealism and Contemporary Art until 4 May
The familiar spaces of The Whitworth Art Gallery are disturbed and subverted by this major exhibition, which traces the affinities between the work of historical Surrealist artists and visual culture today.

Putting on the Glitz, wallpapers and wall coverings with that extra something until Oct
Traditionally, wall coverings incorporating precious metals could only be afforded by the wealthy. For those aspiring to wealth, such luxury was highly desirable. Putting on the Glitz explores how this desire has been (and can still be) satisfied, both by the real thing and extremely effective imitations.

Some Smaller Things until Summer 2009
Inspired by, and acting as a counterpart to, the iconic status of Stonehenge, a new selection has been drawn from the Whitworth’s collection of drawings and prints.

Art and Labour’s Cause is One, Walter Crane and Manchester 1880-1915 until Sept
The exhibition features items such as book illustrations, political cartoons, socialist emblems and works of art.

Agents of Change until Summer 2009
The Whitworth has recently purchased the final edition of Lynn Hershman Leeson’s most significant work of art, the 172 item Roberta Bretmore. A small collection of this work will be shown alongside five newly acquired monoprints by Tracey Emin.

EVENTS

Colourful Sundays
Every Sunday, 1.30pm–3.30pm, Family Friendly, Free
Bring your family and join us to explore and celebrate cultures from around the world through storytelling, art activities and even tasting food snacks.

South American Textiles
Sat 4 April, 1.30–3.30pm
Bring your family and join us to explore and celebrate cultures from around the world through storytelling, art activities and even tasting food snacks.

Felt Making
Wed 8 April, 1.30–3.30pm
Join us to create your own Fabulous Felt masterpiece to take home.

Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online
The Whitworth’s online ‘Collections Catalogue’ now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage at: www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

The Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road, Manchester
0161 275 7450
email whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

The John Rylands Library (Deansgate)

Visit the historic John Rylands Library on Deansgate, central Manchester, home to one the country’s greatest collection of printed books, manuscripts and archives. Regarded as one of the city’s most beautiful buildings, the Library was voted Manchester’s Best Iconic Building in the MCR Awards 2007. Permanent exhibitions tell the story of the Library, display treasures from the collections and include interactive exhibits.

Close-up Session: every Thurs 12.15pm
Enjoy a closer look at selected items from the Library’s outstanding collections and find out more about the building every Thursday lunchtime.

Public opening hours
Mon and Wed-Sat 10am–5pm
Tues and Sun 12pm–5pm

Reader opening hours
Mon-Sat 10am–5pm
FREE ADMISSION

The John Rylands Library
150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
0161 306 0555
email jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk
www.jrl.ac.uk

Centre for New Writing
Launch of the Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures (RICC), Jackie Kay and Joe Pemberton
Mon 2 March, 6.30pm, Martin Harris Centre, (£5/£3)
Kay’s first poetry collection was Saltire Society Scottish First Book of the Year. Her most recent, Day, won the 2007 Costa prize.

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0161 306 4108 or visit www.meeting.co.uk
Uneasy visitors to Gregor Schneider’s Kinderzimmer grope their way into the blacked-out space of the Whitworth’s usually sunlit South Gallery, moving toward a dimly lit room. Kinderzimmer is an exact replica of a children’s nursery room, taken from a village in Schneider’s Rhineland home which was erased to make way for opencast mining. A strange double of a space that no longer exists, it echoes past lives lived in identical spaces, and reflects upon the human and environmental impact of industry.

Commissioned by the Whitworth, this is a significant UK installation by this celebrated artist, winner of the Golden Lion award at the Venice Biennale in 2001. Visitors are offered little in the way of relief as they continue through Subversive Spaces. In too-small rooms, pieces of furniture threaten to crush, copulate and slice while female bodies writhe and contort in hysterical poses. Nightmarish journeys of the sleepwalker end up in the streets of the city where playfully suicidal cyclists ride against New York traffic. Wastelands and ruins, sewers and subways: the hidden organs of the city’s body are exposed. Tracing affinities between the surrealist past and the subversive present, this major new exhibition explores the spaces where we don’t want to find ourselves and records what happens when we do. It challenges our real and imaginary perceptions of our environment, bringing together painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video and film by artists such as René Magritte, Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst and Brassaï as well as contemporary artists including Paula Rego, Lucy Gunning and Francis Alÿs.

Subversive Spaces is the result of a collaboration between the AHRC Research Centre for Studies of Surrealism and its Legacies and The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester. It has been curated by Anna Dezeuze, David Lomas and Samantha Lackey.