

School of Social Sciences Staff Bulletin April 2020



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Welcome to this month's Staff Bulletin.
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Head of School Update

Dear Colleagues

I hope you are all keeping well, and continuing to manage working from home successfully and without too much stress.

Yesterday, we had a SoSS virtual open meeting that over 200 colleagues attended. It was a pleasure to be together with so many colleagues again. I realised how much I missed seeing you!

For those who could not attend there is a recording of the meeting available at: https://zoom.us/rec/share/5N4pLJ_282NLc6_gyRi-ZIIVEar0X6a8hCRM_6AMnU-oVAA4v5cyNFE2n7eSIRwx The password was emailed to all staff by Domenica.

During the meeting I outlined some of the key policies that will be (or are likely to be) implemented for next year's activities, and answered questions about these. Mario and Sophie addressed questions about UG/PGT teaching and PGR developments. Claire spoke briefly and answered questions about research.

There were many questions and good feedback from members of the School, and several issues were raised for us to seek further clarification about and attend to. I appreciated that very much, as there were some important issues brought up that haven't been factored into our thinking and planning yet.

Given the detail we went into yesterday, I won't repeat the policies, their implications, and colleagues' suggestions here. But, if you did not participate yesterday, I encourage you listen to the recording and discuss with colleagues as you wish.

As well as the remarkable efforts still being made by the vast majority of colleagues to provide students with the best learning experience possible in the current situation, there are a host of other achievements made by colleagues in the School – some of these are highlighted in the sections below.

Two especially notable nominations/awards were announced under the UoM Distinguished Achievement Awards:

Researcher of the Year: **Professor Peter Wade** (Social Anthropology)

General Distinguished Achievement Medal: **Emeritus Professor Chris Orme** (Economics, and former Head of SoSS)

Congratulations to Pete and Chris (see *Distinguished Achievement Awards* below), this recognition is truly well deserved.

Don't forget this coming Friday is a Bank Holiday, I hope you enjoy the long weekend.

Brian Heaphy, Head of School of Social Sciences

Teaching and Learning

I would like to start the Teaching and Learning section of our bulletin thanking all colleagues who have been involved with teaching this semester and have dealt in a very professional, cooperative and understanding way with the move to online teaching and assessment. I would like to highlight the immense work of some colleagues (e.g. Departmental T&L Leads, Programme Directors, Programme Administrators and Student Support) who managed very difficult and, sometimes, overwhelming communications with students, while dealing with long and regular calls/emails/discussion board posts from me. These challenging times have given us the opportunity to get closer, cooperate and develop a team spirit that in normal times (dealing with standard minutes and agenda items) perhaps it may have been rather more difficult to achieve.

As a result, we have in place [new assessment procedures](#), including a “no disadvantage” policy. The overriding principle behind these new policies is to make sure to minimise the disruption created by some of the effects of the epidemic and treat all students in a fair way.

Virtual Visit Days

Given the current climate of uncertainty, the School is dedicating significant time and efforts in student recruitment for next year. I would like to thank those T&L Leads and Programme Directors who are contributing to the Virtual Visit Days that our Admission Office has organised with prospective students who have received an offer from our programmes.

Surveys

Course Unit Surveys will go ahead (27th April – 11th May) with a different set of questions that will focus mostly on students’ experience with online teaching. Also, PTES (Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey) will be open 20th April – 11th June.

Academic Advising

If you have not yet met your advisees during semester two, it is important to arrange an online meeting before the start of the exam period. The Faculty recommends using [Blackboard Collaborate](#), but any other platform (Skype, Zoom, Gotomeeting, etc) would be fine. Advising sessions can be held with groups of students, however advisees should also be offered the option to meet one-to-one.

HEA Fellowships

I am very pleased to share the names of the colleagues who have recently been awarded HEA fellowships. Congratulations!

Associate Fellows:

Jana Fey
Thanh Bui
Lisa Grund
Paolo Corsico

Fellows:

Andrea Aparicio-Castro

Dayo Eseonu

Anqi Zhang

Senior Fellow:

Stephen Wadsworth

RESEARCH NEWS

School Director, Claire Alexander

Awards

Congratulations to the following people for recent success in obtaining grant awards:

- Mark Elliott (Social Statistics) and Sophie Woodward (Sociology), National Centre for Research Methods 2020-2024", (with University of Southampton), ESRC
- Frazer McBride (Philosophy), 'Beyond Particular and Universal', Leverhulme Research Fellowship
- Dr Arkadiusz Wisniowski (Social Statistics) 'Statistical modelling of cyclist accidents with Big Data: a case study of Greater Manchester' British Academy Small Grants Competition

Funding Opportunities

Leverhulme Visiting Professorships <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/visiting-professorships>
Deadline 7th May 2020

Leverhulme Major Research Fellowships: <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/major-research-fellowships>
Deadline: 15th May 2020

ESRC UK Ireland networking
<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/esrc-irc-uk-ireland-networking-grants/>
Deadline 20th May 2020

US and UK collaboration
<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-sbe-lead-agency-opportunity/>

ESRC Secondary Data Analysis Initiative (SDAI) - open call
<https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/secondary-data-analysis-initiative-sdai-open-call/>
Proposals are welcome at any time.

Please note that the Research Office remains open operating remotely during this crisis, but that there may be some delays in responding to requests for support. Contact al.researchhub@manchester.ac.uk

REF

As you will know the REF submission date has currently been paused, and we expect guidance on the new submission date very soon. In the meantime, we are continuing preparations as usual, where possible. This will allow us to maintain our excellent momentum, but also free up time later in the process for Schools and Faculties more directly

impacted by the current circumstances (especially FBMH). We ask all colleagues to support our UoA teams in this work, where possible.

RRE

We will be moving to a rolling RRE with immediate effect. Can I encourage all colleagues to upload any high quality publications to PURE and nominate these for review. Please only upload publications which you consider to be potential 3* or 4* (books or peer reviewed journal articles), to help with this process.

Can I please also ask all colleagues to update their PURE profiles, ensure they have an ORCID number and update esteem indicators to develop the environment statements.

The RSO Team

Becky Cross has now left the School on secondment as a project manager in the School of Material Science. We wish her lots of luck in her new role and thank her for all of her hard work. Her work will be covered in the next couple of months by her colleagues in the RSO.

The RSO team, **Becci, Neil, Damaris and Becky**, have also been recognised by the University for their work through an exceptional performance award. Clare Canning has also been recognised for her exceptional performance in supporting impact across the School and Faculty. Congratulations to all for this well-deserved recognition.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS NEWS

Head of School Operations, Alison Wilson

Student Experience Programme

Many of you will already be aware that the Student Experience Programme (SEP) has been paused due to Covid-19 and the University's closure of the campus. The number one priority is to sustain our core business across teaching and learning, applications and admissions and research.

In summary:

- There will be no structural changes to the organisation for the start of the 2020/21 academic year for Cohort 1 Student Marketing and Recruitment, Admissions and Applications as planned.
- Campus solutions 9.2 will not be released in October 2020.
- Engagement sessions and other activities relating to Cohort 2 Themes will be paused.

As a result some members of staff who were seconded to the SEP programme are returning to the School (full or part-time) in the interim period until the programme resumes.

- Paul Smith – was 60% SEP, now 20% SEP, 80% SoSS
- Amanda Grimshaw – was 40% SEP, now 100% SoSS
- Ian Glassey – was 100% SEP, now 100% SoSS
- Chantel Riley – was 100% SEP, now 40% SEP, 60% SoSS
- Edita Pym – was 100% SEP, now 50% SEP, 50% SoSS

IN OTHER NEWS ...

Things to celebrate

- Criminology Colleague **Geoff Pearson** has been appointed academic co-director of the N8 Policing Research Partnership. Geoff will be working with a policing co-director to move the partnership into its next phase.
- Full story available: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/soss-academic-appointed-co-director-of-n8-policing-research-partnership/>
- **SoSS projects** have been nominated in four categories for the Making a Difference Awards 2020. This year's award ceremony will be live streamed for all to watch, congratulations to all the nominees and best of luck to our colleagues in SoSS! Find out more about the awards on the Social Responsibility webpage:
- <http://www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/get-involved/awards/shortlisted-2020/>
- **Centre for Social Ethics and Policy** have been again ranked 2nd in the world of our MA/LLM in healthcare ethics and law, which is great news <https://llm-guide.com/lists/top-llm-programs-by-speciality/top-llm-programs-for-health-medical-law>
- **Chloe Romanis** (Law) has won the University PG student of the year award

Distinguished Achievement Awards

- Researcher of the Year Nomination:
Recently elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, **Peter Wade** is internationally recognized as making an outstanding contribution to the study of race and ethnicity in Latin America (and beyond). His interdisciplinary work has been supported by large and prestigious grants including his latest AHRC award (awarded May 2019) which builds on his earlier (2017-2019) ESRC-funded project, commended by the Office of Social Responsibility for 'Outstanding International Engagement'. With seven single-authored books to his credit, three of which have been translated into Spanish, and one into Greek, Peter is a highly valued and generous mentor, colleague and teacher in the Department of Social Anthropology and across the School and Faculty.
- General Distinguished Achievement Medal
The nomination of Professor **Chris Orme** for the General Distinguished Achievement Medal was made on behalf of academic and PS colleagues in the School of Social Sciences in recognition of his sustained contribution to the University's leadership and management, and his exceptional contribution to the Economics Department, School and Faculty across the past 25 years. He is committed to excellence across research and teaching, and pioneered social responsibility initiatives within the School. Chris has proven to be an exemplary and inspirational manager, shaping the School of Social Sciences into one of the most successful and collegial places to work in the University and establishing it as one of the foremost Schools of Social Science in Britain, and globally.

Key Travel Policy

Whilst there is a restriction on all non-essential travel at present, it is important to reiterate the University Travel Policy, which is that all travel whether that be rail or air must be booked via Key Travel. Sanctions will be put in place for travellers who continue to book travel without using Key Travel.

Baby News

Congratulations to Heather Richards on the birth of her new baby daughter Emmeline Beryl Richards born 22 April 2020 weighing 7lb 13oz

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[Staff Bulletins](#)