

School of Social Sciences Staff Bulletin July 2020



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

Thank you

This has been an especially challenging academic year, but congratulations to all academic and PS colleagues – we got through it! In many cases we even excelled in rising to the challenges presented. So, thank you to all colleagues for your hard work and your 'can do' approach. Most of us, but not all, will now be thinking about a break of some sort or another. It is well deserved, so please do your best to enjoy it. For those who work through all of August (student admissions for example) we very much appreciate the essential tasks you perform and thank you on the School's behalf.

Thank you also to the School Directors and PS Heads and Leads and to the HoDs for their exceptional work this year. Many thanks to those who are stepping down as HoDs now and have done a great job (Wendy Olsen, Chris Daly and Juan Medina), and special thanks to those who are stepping up and 'new' HoDs (Judith Aldridge, Criminology; Graham Stevens, Philosophy; and Tarani Chandola, Social Statistics).

Let's celebrate

As you will see in Claire Alexander's research report below there has been much worth celebrating research-wise in the School. Congratulations to all of those who won awards this year, and a very special congratulations to Gary Younge, who was elected Honorary Fellow of the British Academy, and to James Nazroo, who was elected Fellow of the British Academy.

We can now also celebrate those who we promoted to Professor - Liz Richardson (Politics); Simona Giordano (Law); Ralf Becker (Economics); Reader -Nicholas Thoburn (Sociology) Senior Lecturer (T&R) - Nuno Palma (Economics); Fae Garland (Law); Ian Bruff (Politics); Paul Tobin (Politics); Olga Ulturgasheva (Social Anthropology); Chika Watanbe (Social Anthropology); Alexandru Cernat (Social Statistics); Simin Fadaee (Sociology); Senior Lecturer (Research) - Jonathan Mellon (Politics)

Take a break

This semester, we have met and talked a lot about plans for the next academic year and planning is still ongoing. But in the spirit of an 'end of year' message I am not going to repeat any of this here now. Rather, all I will say is please take the opportunity you have to take a real break over the summer, we know next year will be a busy and intense one.

Brian Heapby, Head of School of Social Sciences

Thank you

I would like to thank all colleagues involved with exam boards, mitigating circumstances panels and academic malpractice panels. Also, thank you very much to those who have contributed to the [graduation celebration video](#). Finally, I am really grateful to those colleagues who have contributed to the Q&A online sessions on various aspect of blended teaching during the [CIP Seminar Series on Online Learning](#) (more info below).

Blended Teaching in Semester 1 2020

For most colleagues (academic and PS) involved with teaching and learning next year, and in particular in semester 1, one of the key tasks will be to design teaching and student support in a new blended and flexible environment. This is clearly a challenging task (made sometimes more complex by significant levels of uncertainty) and, at the same time, an exciting opportunity to re- rethink and improve some of our teaching practices. I am really grateful for the motivation, passion and support of colleagues in all departments in dealing with this. Please, notice below some of the resources that are being created to support colleagues in this task.

University: [Institute for Teaching and Learning](#)

Faculty: [Humanities Teaching Academy](#)

SoSS: [Centre for Innovation in Pedagogy](#)

NSS

2020 NSS results are [available here](#). Please, note that for areas with a response rate of less than 50% this information cannot be published outside the University of Manchester. The student comments are confidential and should never be circulated outside of the University.

In terms of overall satisfaction, SoSS exhibited a larger percentage point falls (-4.49) than the University as a whole (-2.46) and across all NSS themes satisfaction fell this year, although the size of these falls varied. Jo Kaiserman and I are going to set up individual meeting with Departmental T&L Leads and Programme Directors in order to discuss some of the results and required actions, and work on the Student Experience Action Plans (SEAPs) that will need to be submitted to Faculty in October.

CIP Seminar Series on Online Training

We are planning a session on E&D and Inclusivity with Dimitris Papadimitriou and DASS for the 24th of August at 11am. I will send a reminder closer to the date. Please, get in touch with me and Ruby (ruby.hammer@manchester.ac.uk) if you would like to organise in September a session that you think might be beneficial to colleagues. We are also planning to offer re-runs of some of the sessions in August and September.

Thanks

First, I want to thank all of the members of the School Research Office (Pat, Neil, Becci, and Damaris) for all of their support this year, and especially over the past few, very difficult months. We have had an excellent year in terms of grant applications and awards, so thank you to everyone who has applied for grants, and congratulations to all our colleagues who were successful in getting awards. Thank you too to Pip, Mark and Sue (GMAT) for all of their hard work in supporting grant holders, especially since lockdown.

Second, I want to thank Gillian and Clare for their indefatigable support with REF preparations, and the UoA teams who have made great progress on our REF submissions, even under lockdown. We are now on track for strong submissions across the School. Thank you to everyone who has helped with reviewing of outputs, our impact case study authors and to everyone who continues to undertake such amazing research and impact activities. Please keep up the good work and support our UoA teams as we make the final push on REF preparations in September.

Third, I would like to thank all of the academic and PS members of School Research Committee who have supported this work, and the ongoing research in departments, institutes and centres.

Grant News

The School was successful in obtaining 4 ESRC postdoctoral awards in the recent competition. Congratulations to the individuals, and their mentors, in receiving these awards:

James Pattison – Sociology (Mentor James Rhodes)

“Left behind? Precarity, stigma and migration in a post-industrial colliery town”

Antonia Gama de Costa – Social Anthropology (Mentor Gillian Evans and Angela Torresan)
“Between Takes and Edits: media-activism against the terror politics in Brazil”

Pete Jones – Social Statistics (Mentor Termeh Shafie)
“Exploring the marginalisation of women in popular cinema using quantitative network tools”

Caroline Henaghan -Law (Mentor Dr Alexandra Mullock)_

'Squaring the circle' of the menstrual cycle? An interdisciplinary approach to the premenstrual problem

We look forward to welcoming James, Antonia, Pete and Caroline in September.

Congratulations to:

Tarani Chandola (Social Statistics) and Arek Wisniowski (Social Statistics) who have been awarded grants for research on Covid-19 related projects. Tarani will be working with colleagues at Kings College London on a project on “Identifying and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities experienced by people from BAME backgrounds working in health and social care”; Arek is working with colleagues in FSE on “Epidemic modelling and statistical support for policy: sub-populations, forecasting, and long-term planning”

Research Staff Strategy Group Excellence Awards 2020 Summary

Faculty	Name
Research Staff of the Year (1 award per Faculty)	
Biology, Medicine and Health Award Winner	Annette Allen
<i>Biology, Medicine and Health Highly Commended</i>	<i>Jack Green and Daniel Wiseman</i>
Humanities Award Winner	Danielle Alderson
<i>Humanities Highly Commended</i>	<i>Sarada Gadepalli, Margarita Panayiotou</i>
Science and Engineering Award Winner	Ashok Keerthi
<i>Science and Engineering Highly Commended</i>	<i>Daniel Thomas</i>
Output (1 award per Faculty)	
Biology, Medicine and Health Award Winner	Joan Chang, Richa Garva and Adam Pickard
<i>Biology, Medicine and Health Highly Commended</i>	<i>Josh Moulard and Daniel Wiseman</i>
Humanities Award Winner	Frances Houghton
<i>Humanities Highly Commended</i>	<i>Danielle Alderson and Nick Jepson</i>
Science and Engineering Award Winner	Michael Buckley
<i>Science and Engineering Highly Commended</i>	<i>Daniel Thomas</i>
Impact (1 award per Faculty)	
Biology, Medicine and Health Award Winner	Kelly Burgoyne
<i>Biology, Medicine and Health Highly Commended</i>	<i>RCEM COVID-19 CPD Team</i>
Humanities Award Winner	Ajmal Hussain
<i>Humanities Highly Commended</i>	<i>Carl Emery, Ceri Hughes</i>
Science and Engineering Award Winner	Chris Overton, Lorenzo Pellis and Helena Stage
<i>Science and Engineering Highly Commended</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Environment (1 overall winner)	
UoM Award Winner	Michael Avery (SE)
<i>UoM Highly Commended</i>	<i>BMH Research Staff Reps Network Dianne Harris (HUMS) Leah Gilman (HUMS) Radha Boya and Igor Chernyavsky (SE)</i>

Thank You

As this is the last bulletin for this academic year I would like to formally acknowledge and thank the PS for their contribution across the year, but particularly since March with the move to home working. The PS have worked incredibly hard and sometimes in difficult circumstances to deliver our services. In the area of teaching, learning and student experience a number of new processes/ policies were introduced to ensure students were not disadvantaged by the pandemic which resulted in additional work in what was already a busy period. In recruitment and admissions many more offers have been made in order to try and meet student number targets and some excellent conversion work has taken place.

The team work across the School has fully demonstrated the commitment and flexibility of the staff to support other areas. Notably:

- SoSS External Relations led by Will Bevin-Nicholls who have supported recruitment conversion activities and the on-line Graduation celebrations last week.
- Danny Allen who has supported Faculty Teaching and Learning in calculation of the baseline marks and the application of the No Disadvantage Policy, finding solutions to implementation that significantly reduced workload for other colleagues in all schools.
- Lisa Konomoore (WP Intern) who has supported PGT Admissions.

I also need to thank the Resources team who have managed the 'grab and go' days and are now working on how we can all safely return to the campus as well as the usual start of year preparations.

2020/2021 Academic Year

When we do return to campus there will be some changes to PS teams as a result of voluntary measures and resignations. Jo and I are still working through the detail on this which will be disseminated in September. I did not anticipate having to re-visit the structure of the PS so soon after the merge of Law and Criminology into SoSS, but PS pay-savings have to be made so we will be operating on a reduced number of staff next year.

Leavers

We have said or will be saying good-bye to the following staff over the next month and thank them for their contribution and wish them well for the future.

- Lilli Broadbent
- Stephen Wadsworth

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