



SoSS School News

Your round up of news and events across
the School of Social Sciences

Head of School Report - Brian Heaphy

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, unfortunately this week's graduation ceremonies have been postponed until next spring due to concerns about the rising rates of the Omicron variant of Covid. This was not an easy decision for the University but was taken with the safety of all potential attendees in mind.

At the Faculty level we also took the decision to move any teaching and assessment online for the remainder of this semester to enable students who may need to isolate to do so in time to return home for the holidays. Otherwise, in line with Government policy we are going ahead with the plan for face-to-face teaching in Semester 2, whilst preparing for any changes in Government policy.

This has been a tough Semester for all colleagues, and I know that many of you are looking forward to having a well-served break over the holiday period. In light of that I am not going into detail now about updates on recent successes and forthcoming opportunities, although some of the notable ones are mentioned by colleagues below.

The priority now should be to finish our teaching this week, and to begin preparing to have as good a rest and as much enjoyment over the holidays as possible. I'm

planning to be in Ireland for a week, walking by the sea and seeing all my of family members together for the first time in 13 years.

Thanks again for all your hard work.

Wishing you all the very best for the holidays and for the New Year.

Brian

Teaching and Learning News - Mario Pezzino

Semester 2

As you might know, the University and the Faculty have communicated the decision that students will NOT be offered the opportunity to study remotely in Semester 2. This decision, of course, will have important implications for some of our students, who will have to travel (some of them for the very first time) to Manchester, find accommodation and familiarise themselves with life on campus.

The decision will have implications for our programmes, in terms of delivery of teaching and support. Jo, the School T&L Committee and I will coordinate with Faculty and University, and we will prepare to address issues that might arise locally.

Senior Tutors

I would like to share an update on our Senior Tutors. These are colleagues who joined us at the beginning of Semester 1 to provide full time academic advising to our Year 1 UG students. As you can see from the table below, they have been homed in our departments and associated to our Programmes. They are located in Crawford House.

Together with Caroline Hoyle (School Senior Academic Advisor) and Jo, I engage with these colleagues regularly. They are a lovely, committed and friendly group and I will urge colleagues teaching in our programmes to get in touch with them. This semester has been a bit hectic, but it is our plan to put in place opportunities to increase the interaction between programmes and STs.

Senior Tutor	Department	Programmes
Hawraman Ali	Politics	BAEcon/Poli & IR

Jonathan Farrell	Criminology	BASS/Poli & IR
Wayne Ramwell	Law	LLB/Poli & IR
Vlad Schuler-Costa	Law	LLB/Poli & IR
Ben Springett	Law	LLB/Poli & IR
Ethan Landes	Economics	BAEcon
Denise Vargui	Economics	BAEcon
Gary Donnelly	Economics	BSc Economics
Emile Chan	Philosophy	PPE/BASS/Philosophy
Joann Wilkinson	Sociology	BSocSc Socy/BASS/Poli & IR
Zhiqin Wu	Law	LLB/Poli & IR
Francis Joash	Criminology	BA Crim/Philosophy/Poli & IR
Kashif Malik	Anthropology	BSocSc Soan/BScEcon/Poli & IR

Graduation

It is with deep regret, that the University has made the very difficult decision to postpone next week's Winter Graduation ceremonies, in light of the introduction of the government's Plan B guidance for COVID-19 and the growing concerns and available data about the COVID-19 variant, Omicron.

The University is planning to offer rescheduled dates in March and April 2022 and as soon as more specific dates are available we will be in touch with further information about the rescheduled ceremonies.

We are working closely with our student-facing teams to manage the impact of this on our students. A central hotline has been set up for student enquiries and support. From 11 December students can call 0161 549 1255 between 10am-4pm. They can also email graduation@manchester.ac.uk. You can also direct students to the [Graduation FAQs](#).

Teaching moved online for the end of semester one

As we approach the Christmas break, The Faculty of Humanities has taken the decision to move teaching and assessment online for the remainder of the semester. This arrangement gives students who may want to travel home earlier than planned the flexibility to do so - given growing concerns about transmission rates of the Omicron variant.

If students have recently tested positive for Covid, the temporary online teaching arrangement gives them time to isolate in time to return home for Christmas. The aim is to give them as much flexibility as we can while ensuring their learning is not interrupted.

Although teaching will be online, our campus remains open. This includes learning spaces, libraries, student support facilities, sports and catering. At the time of writing, plans for a return to on-campus teaching in Semester 2 remain unchanged.

Research News - Andy Miles

Funding

Awards totalling £47,000 have been made to projects that were successful in the annual School Small Grants competition. Applications to the School Research Support Fund competition, announced last month, closed on the 9th of December. This £250,000 fund was targeted at the development and completion of research that has been disrupted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A separate Faculty Recovery Fund, worth a total of £500,000, was open to applications until the 8th of December. The latter was aimed at the development of research that aligns with the Faculty's five priority themes (Global Inequalities, Digital Futures, Sustainable Futures, Creativity and Post-Covid Society). We are in the process of conducting a mapping exercise to identify current and possible future research and impact in these areas across the School.

New Awards

Congratulations to the following colleagues, who have recently received grants/funding awards:

Dan Welch - Sociology - Research Council of Norway via Oslo Metropolitan University 'IMAGINE: Contested Futures of Sustainability'.

David Buil Gil - Criminology - EPSRC via Northumbria 'PrivIoT - Understanding and Mitigating Privacy risks of IoT Homes with Demand-Side Management'.

Research Lifecycle Programme Update

Figshare: Manage and publish your research data easily with the University's research data repository

Following its soft launch in summer 2021, the Research Lifecycle Programme is pleased to announce the formal launch of the University's [Figshare for Institutions](#) research data repository.

Figshare is a powerful, flexible and easy to use platform for storing, managing and publishing datasets, files and related resources, and linking them to the published outputs of your research projects.

[Find out more](#)

Pure Portal project

The Research Lifecycle Programme recently started a new project called the 'Pure Portal Project', which aims to upgrade the current Research Explorer webpages and provide improved search ability to help identify expertise both for internal staff and students but also for external visitors to the portal (the general public, potential collaborators etc.).

The project team will provide an opportunity for users to provide feedback throughout the course of the project. If you would like to have early access to the new portal in order to provide feedback, please email us at pure@manchester.ac.uk and we will provide you further information on how to get involved as the project progresses.

[Find out more](#)

Internationalisation - Jasem Tarawneh

Congratulations...

...To Prof. Simona Giordano (Law Department) in collaboration with Prof. Gillam from the

Department of Paediatrics- University of Melbourne- who have managed to secure 2 scholarships through the Manchester – Melbourne Jointly Awarded/Dual PhD Project. Many Congratulations to Prof. Giordano and Prof. Gillam.

Manchester Centre for Law and Business

A number of research workshops/presentations have been agreed between [Manchester Centre for Law and Business](#) (Law Department) and the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Details of the Workshops which will start in March 2022 will be shared closer to the time.

Faculty launches Internationalisation newsletter

The first Internationalisation newsletter from the Faculty of Humanities is out. The newsletter brings you news, stories and an introduction to the international work happening within our faculty. The newsletters will be coming out quarterly to keep staff updated on our internationalisation activities.

[Read the first edition](#)

Social Responsibility - Dimitris Papadimitriou

Yellow bins for mask recycling

You can now recycle your single-use face masks in specially-marked bins across campus.

In ALB, HBS and Williamson those are located by the main entrance of each of the buildings.

These will be emptied by staff in House Services and the masks are then collected by ReWorked and will be repurposed in to Stormboards, durable plastic boards for use in construction, shopfitting, joinery and much more.

Easy Everyday Eco-Actions For Everyone

University of Manchester eco-booklet provides practical information to help staff and students be more eco-friendly

[Find out more](#)

SEP Update - Jo Kaiserman

Admissions release

A major release of the SEP tech supporting Admissions processes took place on 19th October. There were some significant technical issues around this, but these are now largely resolved.

Staffing update

The direct matching process for permanent colleagues into the new management structure ('Cohort 2') is now complete. Details for SoSS are as follows:

Teaching and Learning Manager – **Amanda Brereton**

Teaching and Learning Officer – Curriculum and Programmes – **Abi Robinson**

Teaching and Learning Officer – Assessment and Progression – **Fiona Cooper (0.4 FTE)** and **Nic Campbell (0.6 FTE)**. (Note: Nic Campbell is FT seconded to SEP until April 2023, so this role will be backfilled)

Student Service, Support and Development Manager - **VACANCY**

Student Support and Development Officer – Student Information and Guidance – **Suzi Edwards**

Student Support and Development Officer – Student Support and Wellbeing - **Ian Fairweather**

Bernadette O'connor has been assigned the Faculty PGR Services and Doctoral Academy Manager in the Faculty of Humanities.

These new roles will come into force from March next year as we start to transition to the new SEP structures.

Cohort 3 structures (ie Grades 2-5) are still in development and will be communicated in Spring next year. The expectation is that these will be populated and implemented by the end of 2022.

Student Hubs

The Student Hubs will form a major part of SEP. The SEP team has set up a page giving more information on these proposals including a summary of the expected benefits, an outline of the proposed model and a some FAQs

[Find out more](#)

Head of School Operations - Alison Wilson

PS New Arrivals and Staff Updates

We have welcomed to the UG team:

- Toby Anderson – Law Programme Assistant
- Matthew Seddon – Politics Programme Assistant
- Shaun Pitt – BASS Programme Assistant
- Olivia Woosey – BAEcon Programme Assistant
- Angel Wong – Mitigating Circumstances Support

and to the PGT team:

- Ellicia Schacht – LLM Programme Administrator (and a former Law student)

Thank you!

We would formally like to say a big thank you to all the PS for all your hard work over the last few months. We hope you have a lovely break and our very Best Wishes for 2022!

Alison and Jo

HR Update - Jenny Knights

Local Induction Survey

The Staff Learning & Development Team are carrying out a project to review the approach to induction across the University and to develop approaches to maximise the induction experience of new starters joining the University. Colleagues are asked to complete this survey in order to feed into the project.

[Take the survey](#)

Health and Safety Updates - Heather Richards

Revised COVID guidelines ...

The University is providing regular updates to staff on covid guidelines via staffnet: [University news | StaffNet](#). See [Professor Nalin Thakka's latest update](#) on 10 December following government guidance.

Face coverings in the University are mandatory in all indoor spaces with the exception of solo use spaces, unless medically exempt. This includes in offices and study spaces, unless you are distanced to 2 metres. Signs have gone up across SoSS buildings stating "masks are required," if you require a sign for your office/area please email Donna White (donna.white@manchester.ac.uk).

Face coverings are available from building reception points. Hand sanitiser is installed at high traffic points in the building. Transparent face masks and wipes are available from Arthur Lewis reception and Williamson stationery room (3.47). If stock levels are low, please report to [Heather Richards](#).

Estates and the School have assessed central rooms and school-owned rooms for ventilation (see [Ventilation FAQs](#)).

As a reminder, regular testing is essential to prevent asymptomatic transmission of the virus. Even if you are vaccinated, please participate in twice weekly [lateral flow testing](#).

Tests are available for collection from all catering outlets. Please [report all test results](#) and book a [free PCR test](#) if your lateral flow test result is positive.

Accident/Incident reporting

Please remember to report all accidents/incidents/near misses.

[Report an Incident](#)

First Aid

If you are interested in training as a first aider, please contact [Heather Richards](#).

Fire Safety

We advise all staff to complete the [TLCF100 Fire Awareness E Learning](#)

Please review the guidance on fire safety and evacuation when teaching: [Fire Safety and Evacuation in Central Rooms](#)

We are recruiting Fire Evacuation Marshals, this important voluntary role keeps our students, staff, and visitors safe in our buildings during evacuations. Please email heather.richards@manchester.ac.uk if you would like to join the team.

SafeZone

We recommend you download SafeZone, which can be used to 'Check in' on campus 24/7, call for first aid or emergency assistance, keep up to date on incidents on campus, and contact the COVID-19 helpline.

[Download SafeZone](#)

Social Events in December

University guidance notes; we can proceed with planned social events currently as long as an approved risk assessment is in place. Advice is to avoid using building foyer spaces for events as it can be difficult to control numbers in these spaces. Please email sooss.risk@manchester.ac.uk for advice.

Travel and Risk Assessments

Guidance for national and international travel has changed, see the University's [Travel risk assessment flowchart](#). The School has updated its procedure, see the ["risk assessments" section](#).

Queries

For health and safety queries, please contact [Heather Richards](#) (School Safety Advisor)

For all risk assessment queries: sooss.risk@manchester.ac.uk

Information Governance

Sharing personal data

The University must ensure that it fully complies with the provisions of data protection law. It's really important that all staff members who work with personal data familiarise themselves with data protection principles and our obligations. Failures or weaknesses in our processing of personal data can result in significant harm and distress to individuals who may be affected and may also cause significant reputational damage to the University <https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/igo/data-protection/>.

Please adhere to the [email guidance](#) set out on Staffnet.

Reporting data breaches

Did you know it's your responsibility as an employee of the University to report all data breaches as soon as you become aware of one? Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) we are obliged to report data breaches within 72 hours of becoming aware. The clock starts from the moment we know something has occurred. For example, this could be someone telling their line manager about an email sent containing sensitive personal data to an incorrect recipient.

What do I need to do? As soon as you are aware of an incident involving person identifying information (PII), or if you're unsure about whether you need to report an incident, you should email infosec@listserv.manchester.ac.uk in line with the incident reporting procedure. This is so they can assess whether it needs to be reported to the Information Commission Office on behalf of the University within the 72 hour deadline. **If the University does not meet this deadline it could face a six figure fine.**

Find out more on the Information Governance Office website

Information Risk Register

The Information Governance Office have developed a specific Information Governance Risk Register Assessment in OneTrust for academic research projects, following feedback that the standard IGRR assessment didn't quite work for such projects. It only needs to be completed in certain circumstances (i.e. high risk processing).

This aim of the screening assessment is to identify projects or activities where there are likely to be information risks, in order for advice and guidance to be provided by the Information Governance Office and IT Security, to minimise those risks. It must be completed by the business owner or project manager as early as possible, if any of the following apply:

- You are involved in the procurement or development of a new IT system
- You are making changes to an existing IT system

- You are involved in a non-IT-related project or activity that involves collecting, using or sharing, information or data (whether it's personal data or not)

Find out more

Read the President's update

Read the latest Humanities eNews



You have received this email because you are an employee in the School of Social Sciences. If you have any queries, please contact soss.externalrelations@manchester.ac.uk