



SoSS School News

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

Head of School Report - Brian Heaphy

It has been a busy month for all of us, and while much of our work is teaching-related at the moment, as you will see in the other sections of the report, there have been notable successes in research, social responsibility activities, and several colleagues have been the recipients of awards.

As you will have seen I recently sent a communication to the School to underline our commitment to promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion generally, and I am very grateful to colleagues who communicated their specific concerns about racial equality and inclusion to me.

We are now at the point of preparing for students to return home, to finish our teaching for this calendar year and to have a well-earned break. On the 4th January we will restart our teaching of PGT students, which will be delivered as we have done so far this semester - under DfE Level 3, for the vast majority of us that means online. In February, Semester 2, we need to be prepared for going to DfE level 2, if the Covid 19 conditions allow, which would involve a more fully blended approach to programmes with online and some face-to-face teaching – much like the delivery we had originally planned for semester 1.

There is good news on the promotions front, where those who were promoted this year will receive the pay awards that go with that, to be paid in January. We are also going ahead with promotions this year, and are currently in discussion about how Research Leave will be addressed – there will be Faculty wide communications about this. Also, as you will know, we were also able to give the go-ahead to advertising 11 new

permanent posts across the School. Continuing on the good news theme, we are approaching the point where we are fully prepared for the REF submission, which has involved quite a lot of work so far.

In all 2020 been a tough year for many – if not most – of us. Sincere thanks to all of you for putting so much effort in doing your jobs so well under such extraordinary conditions. I wish you all a good festive break towards at the end of this month.

Teaching and Learning News - Mario Pezzino

Information to students leaving for the Christmas break

Many of you may have seen the University's communications to students about the importance of booking tests for Covid-19 in time to travel home safely for Christmas.

Suggested leaving dates have been staggered on a school-by-school basis to ensure that our students can travel safely through the University's on-site COVID testing programme.

Please make your students/advisees aware of this and encourage them to book a test online if appropriate. All the information they need, and FAQs, is available on the University website here: www.manchester.ac.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/

In addition, a range of social media assets and messages have been created for use on our local social media channels:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Instagram Stories](#)

[Linkedin](#)

Student Experience Survey and Support on Managing Workloads

At the beginning of week 4 in semester 1 the Faculty released a survey among UG students (another survey has been recently released among PGT students) to ask their views about their learning experience with our blended/online teaching.

With 481 responses, SoSS has recorded the highest number of responses in the Faculty. Please, get in touch with the T&L leads in your departments if you would like to have more detailed information on the survey and the results. Here, I would like to share with you two pieces of information:

1. Students appear to be, on the whole, appreciative of our efforts. More than 70% of the students who responded agreed that live and recorded lectures/seminars were delivered well. More than 80% of responses found the possibility to watch the recordings useful and they recognised the fact that teaching staff have been approachable.

2. Some students are struggling managing their workload. Only 34% of responses found workload manageable. This is information that we have also heard in various SSLC meetings.

With respect to point 2, Departments have coordinated efforts with student reps and identified ways to support and guide their students locally. Together with the SoSS eLearning Lead and the SoSS Head of Student Support, we are working to produce a set of SoSS resources to help students plan their work, prioritise tasks and find support if needed. I will circulate the Sparks link as soon as ready.

Seminar series and pedagogical research

I am aware that in the last few months we have operated in some kind of emergency mode, where we have had to take quick decisions, (in some cases) drastically innovate the way we deliver our teaching, and support students in this transition.

I would like to start thinking of sharing good practice and foster, as a School, pedagogical discussions and research.

Together with Ruby Hammer, I would like to organise regular seminar series, hosted by the Centre for Innovation in Pedagogy. During the summer, we had a very helpful contributions from internal speakers: projects.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/cip/cip-seminar-series/

My desire is to organise talks also from inspirational and experienced colleagues from other institutions. It is also my intention to have some of our students (UG, PGT and PGR) collaborating with the organisation of the seminar series. If you are interested in pedagogical scholarship and would like to contribute to the seminar series (as an organiser or a presenter), please get in touch with Ruby and myself.

Finally, if you are working on pedagogical research, please get in touch with me if you would like to have your papers listed on the Centre for Innovation in Pedagogy (<http://projects.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/cip/scholarship-papers-in-soss/>).

[Find out more](#)

Research News - Claire Alexander

REF

REF Preparations are ongoing, and reaching their conclusion. There may still be requests coming your way for information or assistance with reviewing and we would appreciate your ongoing support in these crucial final stages.

If you have new outputs that will be published **before 31st December 2020** please nominate for RRE if you think they are 3* or above.

New Awards

Congratulations to the following colleagues who have been awarded new grants:

- Chris Thornhill (Law) led by University of Lund - Swedish Research Council "Judicial Reform Policies in Post-Authoritarian States"
- Geoff Pearson (Law) led by University of Westminster - AHRC Networking Grant "A Network for Rethinking Academic Research Ethics Frameworks and Processes in the Humanities"
- Helen Holmes (Sociology) led by FSE – NERC "Enabling Research in Smart Sustainable Plastic Packaging"
- Petra Nordqvist (Sociology) led by Liverpool – ESRC "Direct-to-consumer genetic testing and donor-conception: support and governance in emerging digital systems"

Grant opportunities:

Leverhulme Research Centres: Leverhulme have announced a Research Centres Competition which will open in January 2021. These prestigious centres run for between 5 and 10 years and the funding available is up to £1m per year for up to 10 years. Institutions may submit only one application. Details of internal selection processes will be circulated in due course.

For more info: <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/leverhulme-research-centres>

[Find out more](#)

Philip Leverhulme Prizes 2021

Details: The call for Philip Leverhulme Prizes will open for applications from 1st January 2021, with a final deadline for institutional nominations of 4pm, 17th May 2021. The prize scheme makes up to thirty awards of £100,000 a year, across a range of academic disciplines. Note that the disciplines selected are intentionally broad, and nominations will be considered irrespective of a nominee's departmental affiliation.

Applications for the Philip Leverhulme Prizes will be demand managed as each institution may only submit a maximum of three applications for each subject area. Therefore, the following internal selection process has been put in place.

Timeline:

4pm, Monday, 18 January 2021: Outline application for internal selection process to be sent to the relevant School Research Support Manager. Outline application to consist of:

- Subject Area
- CV
- Significant research achievements (400 words)
- Future research plans (400 words)
- How the nominee would use the prize (400 words)

- What the prize would enable nominee to achieve that current funding would not allow (400 words)
- Confirmation from the nominee that their HoD supports the outline application being considered for selection

Tuesday, 4 May 2021: Recommended internal deadline for successful candidates' sections of Leverhulme application form to be completed. As there is significant input and approval required by the Head of Department, the Research Services team are asking that candidates complete their sections of the application form by this date.

Monday, 17 May 2021: The deadline for submission of institutional nominations.

For more info: <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/philip-leverhulme-prizes>

[Find out more](#)

Social Responsibility - Dimitris Papadimitriou



Let's Talk: Silencing the Silence of Suicide

This month we have organised and delivered a 'SoSS Making a Difference' event, aimed at breaking down the barriers to discussing suicide and mental health.

At a time of a global pandemic and international lockdown and the consequential decline in human contact, there has been an exponential rise in mental health difficulties. In this event, and in association with the mental health charity, SOS Silence of Suicide, we hoped to open up the debate about suicide and de-stigmatise the silence that surrounds this.

For this event we were joined by mental health charity, SOS Silence of Suicide, founders Michael Mansfield QC and his wife Yvette Greenway-Mansfield. We also had Barbara, Deputy Director of the Manchester Samaritans on board to provide support.

From UoM, Claire Francis from the Counselling and Mental Health Service and Junior Usina, Welfare and Community Officer at Manchester University's Student Union discussed the challenges of student life during COVID (and beyond) and on the support the University offers to students.

Environmental Sustainability Awards

The School has introduced Environmental Sustainability student awards to demonstrate its commitment to dealing with the climate emergency and in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The School also builds on an extensive network of initiatives supported by the University of Manchester in this field. Staff are able to nominate students for an award.

[Find out more](#)

Making a Difference Awards - Nominations now open!

In what has been an unprecedented year, our annual Making a Difference Awards are back and open for entries and we're ready to celebrate even more of the feats our staff, students, alumni and external partners have achieved. The nine award categories

acknowledge the differences people are making in their communities and beyond, covering many different types of social responsibility projects and activities.

If you, your team or someone you know has made a difference enter now, the deadline for entries is **18 January 2021**. Please submit nominations through the **[SR website](#)**

[Find out more](#)

Join in with Community Mapping Day

On Thursday 10 December, UN World Human Rights Day, the SEED Social Responsibility team are asking students, staff, alumni and supporters to come together as a global community to help us make a difference in one big volunteering effort

[Find out more](#)



External Relations - Claire McGourlay

Engaging Our Communities

This month the SoSS External Relations team have been busy planning and hosting virtual events, with at least one public seminar taking place each week. Over the past five events, within the space of four weeks, we have seen over 650 attendees join us to discover, discuss and learn about what we do in the School of Social Sciences. Our latest virtual event 'Say I'm Innocent' with panellists including film maker Mark McLoughlin, exonorees Sunny Jacobs and Peter Pringle, and Innocence Project director, Justin Brooks, reached

audiences as far as Hamline University, Minnesota.

I'd like to thank the whole team for their hard work in making this possible, thanks to Maureen, Noemie, Sarah and Sophie. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome Sarah to the team.

Gary Younge Lecture Now Online

Missed our sell out lecture with Prof Gary Younge on the US election? Don't worry, the full recording is now on our YouTube channel, with Q&A session from Prof Angelia Wilson



[Watch on YouTube](#)

Celebrating Success in SoSS

Politics PGR Students

Beatriz Buarque (2nd year Politics PhD) won the Luxembourg Peace Prize: for Outstanding Peace Organisation. She was recognized for her outstanding efforts and initiatives to promote peace around the world!

Joshua Barritt (2nd year Politics PhD) was competitively elected to serve on BISA's Postgraduate and ECR Committee. He will be in charge of organising PGR/ECR events for BISA for the next couple of years. He already organized a Job Market Session among other activities and his work was praised by BISA leadership.

Sociology

Pension Advisory Group wins prestigious national award for our work on achieving fairer outcomes regarding pensions on divorce across England and Wales

We are very pleased to announce that the Pension Advisory Group, a collaboration between Cambridge University, the University of Manchester and Cardiff University funded by the Nuffield Foundation, has won Resolution's John Cornwell Award for Outstanding Contribution to Family Law 2020. The Award is in recognition of PAG's ground-breaking 2019 report 'A Guide to the Treatment of Pensions on Divorce' on which Professor Debora Price of UoM was a lead author. Resolution is a network of 70 regional groups across the UK comprising 6,500 lawyers and 1,200 accredited specialists seeking to promote a more constructive approach to family disputes. The Award was presented at the Resolution Annual Conference on 19th November 2020. The report has had a substantial impact in the legal world, transforming the law and practice of pension sharing on divorce, leading to more consistent and fairer outcomes. Debora's work to promote fairer pension outcomes after divorce is continuing with a PAG lay guide for divorcing couples currently in production with charity Law for Life, and an ESRC Impact Accelerator Award for public engagement in the new year.

LEAP

Below are the names of GTAs/TAs who have successfully completed the Faculty of Humanities LEAP programme during 2019/20 and are now either Associate Fellows or Fellows of the HEA.

Well done and congratulations to all!

Angelica	Cabezas Pino
Giuseppe	Troccoli
Andrea	Aparicio-Castro
John	Every
Jaime	García-Iglesias
José Ignacio	Cuitún Coronado
Oana	Petcu
Nicole	Renehan
Uzoma	Iloanugo
Lotanna	Emediegwu
Anqi	Zhang
Paolo	Corsico
Elizabeth	Romanis
Mariela	Apostolaki
Dunja	Begovic
Neema	Begum
Jana	Fey
Temidayo	Eseonu
Lisa	Grund
Anna	Balazs
Elena	Borisova
Rashida	Bibi
Ghalia	Sarmani
Deborah	Giustini
Jessica	Mancuso
Neta	Yodovich
Maisie	Tomlinson

PS Awards

Congratulations to Vic Jotham who has been awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education. Well done Vic!

Law

Dr Elaine Dewhurst has authored a new report on Age Discrimination outside the Employment Field for the European Commission. Elaine has been invited to deliver workshops on her findings at the European Law Equality Network as well as being invited to share her findings at the European Commission

[Read the report](#)

Head of School Operations - Alison Wilson

We welcome to SoSS:

UG Admissions

- Lucy Glaister
- Samuel Nero
- Cody O'Connor

PGT Admissions

- Maisha Ahmed

PGR Admissions

Edita Pymm who many of you will already know is taking primary responsibility for PGR Admissions

UG Teaching & Learning

Julia Taylor (Programme Administrator Sociology)

Congratulations

To Zoe Day who has joined the Student Support Team on a secondment as Placement & Disability Support Administrator until 30 September 2021. Zoe previously worked in the Law & Criminology TLSEO.

Meeting-Light Weeks

The University has designated the following weeks 'meeting-light weeks': the weeks beginning 15 February, 31 May and 26 July 2021. Please do your best to avoid setting meetings during these periods.

Christmas Closure

All our buildings will close on 18th December and will be re-opened on 4th January. There will be no heating in the buildings for this period.

Distinguished Achievement Awards

1. Teacher of the Year

The nominee should be an individual whose teaching over the past year has been outstanding. S/he should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas effectively, be able to motivate and stimulate students to learn, whilst at the same time showing a commitment to innovation and excellence in education.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please send it to mario.pezzino@manchester.ac.uk by 9 December 5pm.

2. Researcher of the Year

The nominee should be someone whose most recent research has successfully challenged dogma, created a new field of research, elucidated a new paradigm, made a fundamental change in thinking or impacted significantly on society. Individuals who have excelled in the area of knowledge transfer should also be considered.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please send it to claire.alexander@manchester.ac.uk by 9 December 5pm.

3. Undergraduate Student of the Year

The nominee should have made an exceptional contribution to the life of the University, contributed significantly to the development of the curriculum or enhanced other students' experience at University through activities such as peer support, student societies, or work with central services such as Recruitment and Admissions. Alternatively he or she should have coupled excellent academic achievement with either major external activity (top level sport or music) or have overcome major difficulties.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please send it to mario.pezzino@manchester.ac.uk by 9 December 5pm.

4. Postgraduate Research (PGR) Student of the Year

The nominee should be an outstanding research student who has excelled in some significant manner, for example, after the presentation of a thesis based on the recommendation and judgment of the external examiner; or has had a major research achievement during a PGR programme –e.g. high quality journal publications; research spin off, etc.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please send it to sophie.woodward@manchester.ac.uk by 25 November 5pm.

5. Professional Services (PS) and Cultural Institutions' Members and Teams of the Year

5.1) Individual PS and Cultural Institutions' Awards

Three individual awards will be available. Nominations will be welcomed for individuals representing all categories of staff i.e. manual, professional/managerial, secretarial/clerical or computing/technical/IT.

5.2) Team PS and Cultural Institutions' Awards

Two PS and Cultural Institutions team awards will be available. One team award will be for small teams (up to 12 people) and the other for larger teams (13+ with no upper limit). The successful teams (rather than individual members) will receive an award.

Judging Criteria for the PS and Cultural Institutions' Awards

For both the individual and team awards judges will be looking for outstanding performance.

Specifically, nominations should evidence how the individuals or teams have significantly and tangibly contributed to maintaining a positive, open and respectful working environment where people work cooperatively together, have excelled at breaking down boundaries and communicating fully to achieve outstanding organisational benefits.

There will be an additional requirement for the team entries in that they must demonstrate that they have a shared ethos and have worked synergistically which has led to either a significant one-off achievement (e.g. delivery of a specific project) or to sustained high level performance.

In other words they are looking for individuals or teams who:

- Are flexible and agile
- Have demonstrated that they willingly embrace new challenges and change
- Strive to continuously improve
- Have consistently shown a 'can do attitude'
- Are team players both within their own areas and across organisational boundaries and when working with external partners

- Are always willing to do as much as possible to assist staff, students, visitors and external partners
- Have shown commitment to finding new ways of working, adding to their skills and harnessing technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness
- Have the ability to solve problems creatively, when required

If you would like to submit nominations in this category, please submit them to alison.wilson@manchester.ac.uk by 9 December 5pm.

Human Resources

New email address for fees and expenses claims

The University has a new email address for sending in fees and expenses claims. Colleagues are asked to use the new email address instead of the generic HR Services email address to speed up the process. The new email address is:

- feesandexpenses@manchester.ac.uk

Colleagues are asked to use this email address after filling in their PR7 claim form, instead of the generic HR Services email address, to ensure their claim is picked up by the right team and processed quickly. To complete your claim, fill in the PR7 form at:

- [PR7 expense and fee form](#)

New mental health awareness programme

A new initiative designed to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of poor mental health and sources of available support for staff has been introduced. It is called 'Compassionate Colleague' and the aim is to ensure that colleagues may be able to notice if someone isn't doing ok and be confident to ask if they need any help.

[Find out more](#)



A c♥mpassionate colleague CAN HELP
TO SUPPORT POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK

[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 soos.externalrelations@manchester.ac.uk