



Knowledge Exchange

College of Humanities & Social Science

Winter 2010-11

Encouraging impact

We are delighted once again to present stories showing University of Edinburgh academics partnering with companies, festivals, public bodies and organisations to help enrich lives, contribute to economic development and improve public policy and services.

The stories show how our work has impact on society and this is going to be more important in the years to come in securing core funding for research as well as project grants. Impact occurs and manifests itself in various ways but it is hard to imagine impact of research without a process of knowledge exchange with people who can use, further exploit or in other ways benefit from the research. The Knowledge Exchange Office is here to facilitate links to that end and we are keen to discuss ideas with you whether you are one of our staff or one of our readers from external organisations.

Please get in touch!

On behalf of the KE Team
Anne Sofie Laegran
Knowledge Exchange Manager CHSS

Exchange Fellowship New scheme launched

The Exchange Fellowship is a new scheme to promote collaboration between voluntary, public and private sector organisations and the College of Humanities and Social Science, allowing successful applicants access to University resources to work on a project of mutual interest. Exchange Fellows remain employed by their own organization and spend an agreed time with the University with access to the library, computer networks, desk space and a range of seminar programmes.

The first Exchange Fellow is Keith Dryburgh from Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS). This is the umbrella for Citizens Advice Bureaus across Scotland, who were contacted last year by over 280,000 people in total, bringing over 500,000 different problems related to unemployment, debt, homelessness, etc. "I heard about the Exchange Fellowship through the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and thought it was a great opportunity to work with academic colleagues to make better use of our database", says Keith. A



Fellowship has been set up in the School of Social and Political Science with Alison Koslowski and Paul Norris as mentors. The project aims to make the database

fit for complex data analysis and improve the skills in CAS so that they can utilize it more effectively in their work. The benefit to the academic community is access to the database for students and staff to do research. Dr Koslowski said: "This database is unique in its coverage of problems related to social policy and we are delighted to work with CAS on this project."

Please contact the CHSS Knowledge Exchange Office for information about the Exchange Fellowship scheme.

The Stasi Are Among Us German and Film scholars on censorship in the GDR

Fifty years after the construction of the Berlin Wall, academics from the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures are teaming up with the 2011 Glasgow Film Festival to explore censorship in the German Democratic Republic. The programme of events on 21-22 February includes film screenings, round-table discussions and readings. It is linked to the February issue of the literary magazine *Gutter*, which will be devoted to writing from and about the GDR.

Four ex-GDR filmmakers will introduce their films at the Festival and their career paths illustrate the variety of ways in which film was enabled and suppressed in the GDR. Rainer Simon had been working successfully for the state-run production house DEFA since 1968, only to have his film *Jadup & Boel* banned in 1981. Hannes Schönemann was also employed by DEFA, yet none of his films were released and he was subjected to intense Stasi surveillance, imprisoned and deported. Thomas Heise and Claus Löser offer different perspectives again: Heise was excluded from the industry after his expulsion from the University of Film and Television, while Löser made films in the underground cultural scene.

The project was designed by Susan Kemp (Film Studies), Laura Bradley (German) and the writer and translator Fiona Rintoul in collaboration with Claus Löser. It draws on research for Bradley's recent monograph *Cooperation and Conflict: Theatre Censorship in the GDR* and links to teaching activities on two MSc degrees, *Film in the Public Space* and *Translation Studies*. The project is funded

by the College of Humanities & Social Sciences KE Grant and the DEFA-Stiftung in Berlin, a foundation devoted to the study and promotion of East German film.



Celebrating Hume

He was one of the greatest minds Scotland has ever produced and is arguably the most influential philosopher ever to write in English. Now a year-long series of events is being held at the University of Edinburgh to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of David Hume. The programme of lectures, exhibitions and activities will not only explore Hume's legacy but also his ties to the University which he attended from 1723. As well as assessing Hume's impact as a philosopher, historian, economist and essayist, events will focus on the University during the Scottish Enlightenment. Hume and his associates were at the heart of the Enlightenment's intellectual, literary and cultural events – a golden age when Edinburgh became known as the Athens of the North.

The celebration includes a series of Hume seminars hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and the autumn will see an exhibition in Talbot Rice Gallery on Hume and Beauty. 26 April is Hume's actual birthday which will be celebrated with a panel discussion featuring Dr Peter Millican, Professor Richard Holloway, Professor Susan Manning, Dr Nicholas Phillipson and chaired by Sheena McDonald. The panel will explore how Hume's work, written in the 18th century is still relevant

to philosophical disputes as well as public concerns of the 21st century. The 2011 Enlightenment lecture will be devoted to David Hume and given by Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen, Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University on 18 July 2011.

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/about/video/lecture-series/hume>



Views on autism

In October 2010, the Scottish Autism Research Group (SARG), a multi-disciplinary, inter-university network for academics and practitioners held an event for people with autism spectrum conditions (ASC), their families and supporters. Organised by Dr. Evelyn McGregor and Dr. Katie Cebula from the School of Education the purpose was to showcase the range of research across Scotland involving those with ASC and to seek the community's views on the research in ASC.

Posters of current studies were displayed alongside an art exhibition by people with ASC, comprising paintings, models, animation, poetry, stained glass and embroidery. The event also included talks by academics from Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, parents and practitioners. Researchers and artists were available to discuss their work and group discussions on key aspects of ASC were held throughout the day.

130 people attended the event and the art work was described by participants as beautiful, outstanding and inspiring. The research posters and presentations were considered informative, varied and relevant and despite some specialised language, it was a valuable opportunity to

talk to researchers.

Participants also appreciated the positive aspects of ASC and the scope for higher achievement highlighted in the talks. Group discussions provided an opportunity for information-sharing and insight into families, education, employment and relationships, which will also inform the future research agenda on Autism Spectrum Conditions.

www.education.ed.ac.uk/sarg



Stress in teaching

Coping with stress is a challenge in many work places, not least within the teaching profession. The Scottish firm, Relaxation Company, developed a programme aiming to help teachers cope with stress through a series of interventions. An Innovation Voucher from the Scottish Funding Council allowed them to work with Dr Rosie Mulholland from the University's Institute for Sport, Physical Education and Health Sciences to evaluate the extent to which the programme provided the teachers with strategies to use in their professional and personal context.

The six month programme involved a series of cognitive techniques for teachers to use and develop in their own time and six telephone coaching sessions. The evaluation comprising quantitative as well as qualitative methods showed that while levels of "stress in teaching" remained constant throughout the period, teachers experienced significantly less psychosomatic indicators of stress and their perception of well being had been enhanced. Teachers were able to step back, reflect and explore strategies that could work for them. However, there was evidence to suggest that teachers found that 'time pressures' compromised the extent to which they could apply and develop these techniques further within their everyday professional life.

"While the project supported by the Innovation Voucher was short term and primarily exploratory, we were able to show that the intervention did have a positive impact on teachers' well being" said Dr Mulholland, who is now developing ideas for further collaboration with the Relaxation Company.

PPN on mental health

Can we talk about Mental Health? This was the title of the first PPN Mental Health Working Group event in October 2010. The answer seems clear as about 70 people including the Head of the Mental Health Division of the Scottish Government, practitioners from a range of organisations, academics from several subjects as well as carers and service users took part, leading to a second event on Caring a month later. The aim of the Working Group, facilitated by Steve Tilley, is to provide space for free, safe and inclusive thinking about mental health and illness in the Scottish context and thereby encourage more collaboration between the stakeholders. A third conversation takes place 28 February on Spirituality, Mental Health and Mental Illness. www.publicpolicynetwork.ed.ac.uk

Archive Trails: Traditional music revisited

Celebrating 60 years of collecting and documenting the oral traditions of Scotland, the School of Scottish Studies Archives, based in Celtic and Scottish Studies, are teaming up with arts producers Tracer Trails to commission new works from three acclaimed musicians. The project, funded by Creative Scotland and the University of Edinburgh, aims to open up this extraordinary resource to a wider public through creative practice.

Alasdair Roberts, Aileen Campbell and Drew Wright will be in residence in the Archives from January to April 2011, developing new works based upon the recordings they discover. Alasdair Roberts will be taking the opportunity of the commission to research and rework the mummings' play Galoshins, creating a new, extended drama and song cycle. Whereas Roberts' work focuses on text - manipulating and re-contextualising, Drew Wright's primary interest is in sound: texture, rhythm, melody and noise. He will be looking at canntaireachd and mouth music and the 'sounds in the silences' of the tapes. Aileen Campbell, a visual artist working with sound, is interested in the mass "chorus" of voices represented within the Archive, as well as the history of the collections and their physical presence in the building where they have been housed since the 1950s.

Throughout the residency you will be able to follow the

progress of the project online at www.archivetrails.com. The site will be tracking the artists' research with a blog offering insight into their process; you will also be able to listen to excerpts from Archive recordings. Look out for information on concerts in Edinburgh and across Scotland in the autumn.



Knowledge Exchange in social work

Involving service users in decision-making is a major priority across public services and in social work this presents particular difficulties. Many social work clients, such as adults with mental health problems, parents and children in the child protection system and people in the criminal justice system are legally obliged to accept services but do so reluctantly. Researchers from the Centre for Research



on Families and Relationships and the Social Work department at the University of Edinburgh have worked with over 70 social work staff in six Scottish local authorities to address these issues.

As part of a scheme designed to create engagement between academics and local authorities, the project experimented with different forms of knowledge exchange including practitioner-led research projects and knowledge sharing seminars. The project was managed by Dr Heather Wilkinson and Mark Smith. Dr Michael Gallagher was the research fellow. He said: "This is a difficult area of practice for social workers so they seemed to really appreciate having time to discuss and reflect. We produced literature reviews to summarise evidence about good practice, but we used these as starting points for discussion rather than in a didactic way. It's been about bringing practitioner knowledge into dialogue with academic knowledge."

When it comes to communication, the project confirmed the value of old-fashioned face-to-face contact; online communication was less successful, in part due to computer firewalls in the local authorities. Attention to simple details, such as appropriate timing of events, using nice venues and providing good quality food also proved crucial. Extensive documentation from the project can be found at: www.socialwork.ed.ac.uk/esla

Monet success in Paris

Richard Thomson, Watson Gordon Professor of Fine Art, was co-curator of the exhibition **Monet 1840 -1926**, which was staged at the Grand Palais in Paris from 22 September 2010 to 24 January 2011. The largest concentration of Monet's works yet mounted, the exhibition was seen by 913,064 people, making it the most successful exhibition of paintings ever staged in France. There were also 2 million hits on the website and the catalogue has so far sold 83,000 copies. Professor Thomson contributed to developing concepts for the exhibition's themes, as well as site research and catalogue writing. He said: "Exhibitions are a valuable tool for getting one's work published and for outreach to a very wide audience."

Professor Thomson's wife Belinda Thomson, another art historian affiliated to the university, also played a role in an international art exhibition this autumn. **Gauguin: Maker of Myth** was at the Tate Modern from September 2010 to January 2011 and had 420,686 visitors, making it the third most successful exhibition staged by Tate Britain and Tate Modern.



PhD promoting cycling to work

Cycling is a cheap, environmentally friendly and healthy way of getting to work but Scotland lags behind many other European countries in terms of cycle commuting. In her PhD, supervised by Dr Joanne Williams (Educational Psychology) and Dr Paul Morris (Clinical and Health Psychology), Jenny van Bekkum has worked closely with Cycling Scotland to address how individual's perceptions of cycling commuting can be changed.

In collaboration with Cycling Scotland, Jenny developed a one hour workshop with a DVD and booklet, aimed at supporting workplaces promoting cycling to their staff. The workshop focuses on practical strategies and tips to help people overcome challenges such as: how to cycle safely and confidently in traffic; how to make the most of limited bike storage space at home; and how to manage to look presentable for work. The workshop also includes psychological exercises that encourage individuals to weigh up



the pros and cons of cycling to work and to identify key challenges and explore solutions to these.

The intervention was piloted in a number of Edinburgh-based workplaces. Jenny's evaluation showed that participant's perceptions of barriers to cycling were reduced significantly, with 40% of participants who took part starting to cycle commute. Jenny said: "Although we do need to keep lobbying for better cycling infrastructure and facilities, my research has shown that providing simple psychological and educational support about how to start cycling to work can have significant effects on people's behaviour". For Jenny, the experience of collaborating with Cycling Scotland has been particularly rewarding: "The project enabled me to translate academic knowledge into practice and it's great to see that our work actually makes a difference." The material has now been adopted as part of Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly Employer Scheme.

News in brief



Dispute resolution

Sheila Riddell in the School of Education received an ESRC follow-on grant for the project 'Dispute Resolution in Additional support Needs', building on previous ESRC research on the topic. The programme aims to raise knowledge and awareness of a full range of approaches to dispute resolution including their emotional and practical implications for parents, practitioners and young people.



Children's participation

In an ESRC Knowledge Exchange Follow-on fund grant, Kay Tisdall and Susan Elsley are collaborating with Barnados and Children in Scotland to identify sustainable ways of working that support children and young people's participation in policy making. The aim is to develop practices that are effective in influencing policy and meaningful to the adults, children and young people involved.



Scottish Water assets

A Knowledge Transfer Partnership has been awarded to Jake Ansell and Thomas Archibald in the Business School to work with Scottish Water. An associate has been appointed to develop statistical models forecasting performance for key asset groups and an expenditure optimisation tool for planning varied, competing and interconnected capital and operational requirements over a short, medium and long-term planning horizon.



Architecture partnership

The Architecture departments at the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot Watt University have joined forces to provide a research and knowledge exchange node for key stakeholders in the built and natural environment. The aim is to increase collaboration and the application of research in practice. The partnership was launched with a networking event with industry on 26 January 2011.



Organic collaboration

David Marshall and Angela Treager received a SFC Innovation Voucher to work with Whitmur the Organic Place to develop a basis for a marketing strategy for organic food in Scotland. The work will include a literature review and focus groups to explore customer perceptions of labels such as "organic" and "local".



Historic exhibition

The School of History, Classics and Archaeology recently co-located in the refurbished West Wing of the Old Medical Quad. A Carnegie grant allowed for restoration of the Classics cast collection which is exhibited alongside other artefacts and a programme of events will be developed to engage the public with the work of the School.

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Contact us!

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