



HumSci News

Keeping Friends of Human Sciences in touch

2018

Welcome from the Head of the Institute

A very happy New Year to everyone and welcome to our 2019 Human Sciences Newsletter which I am delighted to introduce in my capacity as Head of the Institute.

One noticeable feature over the last year has been expansion and change. Firstly, some wonderful new appointments have been made all of which strengthen Human Sciences and help to secure it



into the future. Details of these recent appointments follow, in each case the incumbent comes to us with an impressive, and very Human Sciences-related, record of research and specialist interests.

We have also been fortunate in being able to expand the number of colleges that admit for Human Sciences. A special welcome is in order for St Benet's Hall whose first two Human Scientists began their first-year studies last October. Further good news is that the college has already committed itself to doubling its intake in the 2019/2020 year and four

candidates were selected during December Admissions to start in Michaelmas Term 2019.

Further change of a different kind is in progress, namely a physical move away from Banbury Road for The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) and we, of course, as an Institute, are part of that School. University approval has been obtained for SAME to move to Le Gros Clark building, adjoining the Pitt Rivers Museum on South Parks Road. That building has yet to be refurbished for use by SAME so the actual move is some way off yet, but it is likely that Human Sciences will no longer be housed in its current dedicated building, the Pauling Centre. For many of us, me included, this will seem like a great shame, because the Pauling Centre was built with funds donated in order to provide Human Sciences with its own base. It became for us, a special place of our own and a focal point, enabling students across various colleges to come together and have a community. That said, the benefits of relocation are seen as being two-fold. Firstly that the disparate parts of SAME will no longer be scattered across various unsuitable buildings along the Banbury Road making for easier communications and camaraderie and secondly that the Human Sciences undergraduate body will benefit from direct contact with postgraduates and a feeling of belonging to a much wider academic community.

Alongside change, though, lies continuity. Human Sciences is now almost fifty years old. We will soon be able to celebrate our golden jubilee. Ideas for how we might do that would be welcome. A reminder that we have been producing wonderful graduates for a number of decades comes easily to mind when we read some of the updates provided by alumni in this Newsletter. I am so full of pride when I read about really important work that is being accomplished by our alumni, many of whom apply their Human Sciences knowledge in the process. So many of them are doing impressive and worthwhile work. And the quality of recent graduate dissertations, some mentioned here, reminds me of the innovative ideas that can be generated by pursuing a truly interdisciplinary degree.

There is much to read in this newsletter, and much for us to be proud of as Human Scientists. I hope you enjoy its content.

*Amanda Palmer
Head of Institute*

Welcome to

Thomas Cousins who was appointed the Clarendon-Lienhardt Associate Professor in the Anthropology of Africa with a tutorial fellowship at St Hugh's College from 1 January 2018. He is the convenor of Paper Va finals paper (Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation).



Thomas completed his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University, in the USA, and then taught social anthropology at the University of Stellenbosch for five years before coming to Oxford. He is an anthropologist of southern Africa with a particular interest in health, labour, and kinship, especially nutrition and pharmaceuticals and their attendant forms of value and life. His fieldwork to date has been in South Africa. His doctoral work (Johns Hopkins, 2012) focused on timber plantation labourers in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and the substances and concepts of health, strength, and life that are constituted in the production of value. He is currently working on a book manuscript emerging from ethnographic fieldwork in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, which examines the emergence of the gut as a new epistemic object in postcolonial South Africa.

He is currently working on two new projects. The first project takes forward ethnographic fieldwork in KwaZulu-Natal, looking at social histories and environmental change along the Mfolozi River, including popular resistance to coal mining, reengineering the iSimangaliso wetlands, and local practices of citizenship. The second is a comparative project, between Cape Town and New Delhi, titled "Urban animals, human livelihoods and health in the global south: a trans-species approach", funded by the Wellcome Trust, and in collaboration with colleagues at Oxford, Cambridge, Kings College London, and UCL. The project brings together scholars in India and South Africa to examine non-human life in relation to new forms of the urban, and the ways in which health is distributed across and composed by various human and non-human actors and processes.

He continues to do research at the intersection of medical anthropology, science and technology studies, and public health.

Pieter Francois who is the new Director of Studies for Human Sciences at St Benet's Hall and who tutors for Social Anthropology. Pieter is an Associate Professor in Cultural Evolution and a Senior



Researcher in the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. At St Benet's he is a Tutorial Fellow in Anthropology and Tutor for Graduates. Pieter is the Founding Director of the Seshat: Global History Databank which brings together the most current and comprehensive body of knowledge about human history in one place through systematically collecting what is currently known about the social and political organization of human societies and how civilizations have evolved over time. Pieter is a leading scholar in the field of Digital Humanities with a particular strength in designing large-scale collaborative projects.

We are very excited that the first two students to study Human Sciences at St Benet's Hall matriculated in October. St Benet's is offering places to four students for the 2019 intake. St Benet's admits undergraduate students for a number of Humanities and Social Sciences courses (Classics, History, Oriental Studies, PPE, Philosophy and Theology and Religion). Human Sciences

expands but also dovetails well with these subjects. We are sure that Human Scientists will contribute much to the life of the college, with their unique interdisciplinary perspective.

Ana Gutierrez Garza who has been appointed Departmental Lecturer in Social Anthropology and is currently acting as Director of Studies at Keble College, whilst Morgan Clarke is on research leave. She gives lectures on economic anthropology and on kinship and gender, contributing to the key themes in social anthropology and the persons, kinship and social reproduction lecture series for the core paper on Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation and to the Gender Theories and Realities: Cross-Cultural Perspectives Option.



Ana specialises in migration, labour, gender, morality and personhood. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the London School of Economics in 2014. Her doctoral research focused on the lives of Latin American women migrants who worked in domestic and sex work in London. In 2014 and 2015 she conducted short term research on

cooperation, networks of care and inequality in Oklahoma with Hispanic migrant families. From 2015 to 2018 she worked as part of the ESRC-funded project 'An Ethnography of Advice: Between Market, Society and the Declining Welfare State'. She analysed the role of advice as a form of struggle in the rapid dismantling of the Spanish welfare state, exploring the networks and practices of counsel offered by different non-profit organisations that have emerged from the need to counteract the lack of empathy and welfare cuts implemented by the Spanish state.

She has recently published her first book entitled: *Care for Sale: An Ethnography of Latin American Domestic and Sex Workers in London*, published by Oxford University Press. *Care for Sale* is an in-depth ethnography of a group of middle-class women from Latin America who exchange care and intimacy for money while working as domestic and sex workers in London. Illuminating the complexities of care work, the book offers a detailed study of women's lives and working conditions. It considers how their experience of migration and intimate labour is one of rupture that both enables and forces them to gradually reconstitute themselves, in their host cities, as people quite distinct from their "normal" selves back home. *Care for Sale* illustrates the connections and the factors that contribute to migrant women choosing either domestic or sex work, including their concerns about money and morality. It moves away from a narrow focus on migration and labour to focus instead on the creation and (re)creation of persons; and on the ways in which people fashion themselves and cultivate difference, inequality, or commonality as part of their self-making projects. By doing this, the book shows migrants not only as economic actors, but also as individuals involved in an intimate process that constantly modifies their sense of morality and personhood.

<https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/care-for-sale9780190840655?q=Ana%20Gutierrez&lang=en&cc=gb#>

Congratulations to

Andy Gosler, Vice-Chair of the Institute of Human Sciences, who was awarded honorary life membership of the British Ornithologists' Union in recognition of his exceptional service to the BOU and IBIS, and has been made an Associate Professor in Applied Ethnobiology and Conservation,



which builds on his work for Human Sciences. Andy has completed his training for ordination in the Church of England and many members of the Institute were delighted to attend his ordination as a Deacon at Christ Church in June. He is serving his curacy in the Benefice of Marston with Elsfield as a self-supporting minister and remains Director of Studies for Human Sciences at Mansfield College as well as the convenor of the Ecology part of the Biology of Organisms Prelims paper; the Evolution section of the Prelims Genetics and Evolution Paper, the Ethnobiology section of the

FHS Human Ecology paper and the Biological Conservation Option. He is also the Admissions Co-ordinator for Human Sciences in 2018–19.

Ridhi Kashyap who was one of two joint winners of the European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Prize for the best PhD thesis in 2017. Ridhi was also the recipient of the 2018 European Association of Population Studies Gunther Byer Award for the best paper by an early career scholar at a European Population Conference for her paper on 'Does prenatal sex selection reduce gender gaps in child mortality?'. The award was made at the European Population Conference 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. Ridhi is a Professorial Fellow of Nuffield College and an Associate Professor of Social Demography in the Department of Sociology and School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. She is the convenor of the Finals Demography and Population paper for Human Sciences and the Comparative Demographic Systems option paper for PPE.

Jane Langdale who was appointed a CBE in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honour List for her services to plant science. Jane is a Professorial Research Fellow in the Department of Plant Sciences and gave lectures, until 2013, on genetics for the first year of the Human Sciences course as well as for Biological Sciences, Biomedical Sciences and Biochemistry.

Melinda Mills, Nuffield Professor of Sociology and Professorial Fellow of Nuffield College, who was awarded an MBE in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honour List and has also been elected as a Fellow of the British Academy. Melinda has given lectures in both Sociology and Demography for Human Sciences. Her work is highly interdisciplinary, combining social science and genetic approaches to studying areas such as fertility and human reproductive behaviour, assertive mating, labour market, life course and inequality. She is the author of several books on globalization and uncertainty, survival and event history models and a forthcoming book on applied statistical population genetics. Melinda is leading the ERC-funded SOCIOGENOME project which examines whether there is a genetic component to reproductive outcomes; and the ESRC/National Centre for Research Methods SOCGEN project which combines social science and molecular genetic research to examine inequality and the life course. She is also co-leader of Working Package 4 on Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Childlessness, within the FamiliesAndSocieties project consortium which is investigating the diversity of family forms, relationships and life courses in Europe, with its results contributing to the assessment of existing policy and new evidence-based policy-making.

Natalie Montegriffo, who was awarded the Salters' A level Award for the highest marks in Salters Advanced Chemistry in 2018. Natalie is a first-year Human Sciences student at St Benet's Hall. She attended St Mary's College, Basingstoke where in addition to Chemistry, she gained A levels in Biology and History.

Linda Sarfo-Gyamfi, a Human Sciences graduate from Magdalen College, who is one of six Oxford students to have been awarded a prestigious Schwarzman Scholarship, which are graduate fellowships based at Schwarzman College at Beijing's Tsinghua University. Linda is one of 147 scholars selected from over 2,800 applicants and will begin her studies in the autumn of 2019. Linda graduated from Oxford in 2016 and whilst here she was President of Polygeia, a global health think tank, as well as Oxford women in business. She is currently one of the youngest Partner Managers at the Facebook EMEA headquarters. She has previously worked at Thomson Reuters, the Boston Consulting Group and the UK Department of Business and Innovation and Skills. Through the Schwarzman Scholarship, she hopes to learn more about innovation in China.

The Human Sciences Society Year in Review

Blimey, that's another year come and gone. Tell me alumni: does life slow down after Oxford or does it just keep getting faster? The Human Sciences Society lives to see another year: we've been

keeping on organising the sporadic social event, academic something or another and popcorn-infused film nights.

February kicked off with our annual symposium, this year 'Thinking Forwards: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Human Futures', when we were joined by a diverse array of speakers to tell us about the future, or rather post-Cold War imaginations of the future (Professor Ulf Hannerz), the Victorian invention of the future (Professor Iwan Morus), what trends indicate the future will look like (according to the incredibly optimistic and self-proclaimed futurist, Dr Anders Sandberg) and finally the psychology of future thinking (with Professor Nicky Clayton and Mr Clive Wilkins – a performative double act featuring a short bout of the tango!). We had a great turnout this year and everyone who stuck it out for the four and a bit hours enjoyed the show! A personal thank you to any of our alumni who made the trip to attend this year's symposium.

The process of organising it was not without its stresses, but it was a rather rewarding experience and quite the mind boggler overall. Iwan Morus opened discussing the historical becomings of our individualistic notions of the popular scientist and the 'inventor' coinciding with a Victorian, fuel- and power-driven invention of technoscientific futures in fiction. Anders Sanberg then told us about his view of the 'deep future': suppose there's no real limits on what we could do; imagine the application of Moore's law to every measurable thing forever! A convergent takeaway from both was the conclusion that we would be better to view discovery, invention and progress as a collective enterprise, instead of that of individual geniuses (*per se*). Anders was followed by the anthropologist, Ulf Hannerz, who considered in retrospect the popular future scenarios of scholars and pundits in the post-Cold war era (both pessimistic and optimistic; more often than not, proven wrong), and contextualises these anticipations within the cultural anxieties of coincident geopolitical restructuring across the globe. I'm glad that Anders came along, other perspectives on the future may not have been so cheerful: it did leave me wondering whether there may be cause for some sort of naïve optimism. Finally Nicky Clayton, Professor in comparative cognition, as well as a dancer discussed and performed with Clive Wilkins, an author, dancer and magician: a talk on the psychology of memory, its perception of time, and the illusory effects therein.

As if the future didn't feel complicated enough already, this year (on Saturday 2nd March) we're sticking to themes with simple interdisciplinary solutions: consciousness.

Otherwise it's been a handful of movie nights (Adam Curtis filling us with sociological dread and a Documentary film series called 'Human' by Yann Arthus-Bertrand – I'd recommend both!). Socials, including a rowdy crew date (they (peers) tried to make me drink beer out of my shoe), a rainy BBQ and something of a bar crawl. We've sold shirts, hats, jumpers. We've made a user-friendly guide to the human sciences for new freshers, and an online crowd-sourced platform for sharing notes and old essays. We've even started playing with the idea of organising some academic events beyond the symposium.

That is, I think, the year in review. A big well-done to Maurice Lange and Kate Gerrand who graduated this year (and did very well!) as well as a thank you to the rest of the Human Sciences Society: Phoebe Whitehead, Tatjana Marks, Elie Danziger and Louis Torracinta for making everything happen!

Happy New Year!

Luke Stalley, President of the Human Sciences Society and third-year Human Sciences undergraduate at Harris Manchester College

Human Sciences Symposium 2019: Consciousness

The 2019 Human Sciences Symposium is taking place on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd March in Magdalen Auditorium. The theme of the Symposium this year is 'Consciousness. Please check out the event [Facebook page](#) where you can register via the Eventbrite link. The Symposium is free but registration is recommended.

Meeting Minds Alumni Weekend

At the 2018 Alumni Weekend, Professor Stanley Ulijaszek gave a presentation about physical activity, aesthetics and the built environment. In the spirit of the Human Sciences program, he explored a diverse landscape of thinking about these topics and invited viewers to consider a range of questions: How might technologies such as GPS navigation change our relationship with our built environment? Are imagination and wonder inspired by the world around us a luxury for the wealthy, or are they accessible to everyone? What are the implications of technoscapes for human wellbeing? This was enjoyed by an audience of around 30 alumni from both Human Sciences and a range of disciplines from Engineering and Mathematics to Modern Languages and Philosophy.

We are delighted that Dr Katrina Lythgoe has agreed to give a lecture at the 2019 Alumni Weekend on Saturday 21st September. Katrina studied Human Sciences at Balliol College and is now a Research Group Leader and Sir Henry Dale Fellow at the new Big Data Institute, part of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Medicine. Her research is on the evolutionary epidemiology of viruses, such as HIV, hepatitis C virus and hepatitis B virus, with the ultimate aim of informing public health decisions. In particular, she is interested in disentangling the, often conflicting, selection pressures acting on pathogens within and between individuals, and assessing the impact this has on the evolutionary epidemiology of infectious disease. Her approach is inter-disciplinary in nature, ranging from genetically sequencing the millions of viruses that circulate within infected individuals, through to the development of new mathematical models. Her talk will focus on how we can use genetics to understand and control some of the most devastating infectious diseases on the planet.

Do look out for further details of the Alumni weekend and put Saturday 21st September in your diaries. Human Sciences alumni will be able to attend this talk for free if they book through sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk

Humans, sciences and the outdoors: A Forest School project

Picture this: Fifteen beaming five-year-olds and five beaming adults, all wearing wellies, all together for a couple of hours every week – rain, shine or snow. Where are they? In a wooded area by their school, with its apple trees, grassy areas, bushes and thorns. What are they doing? They are climbing, running, falling, drinking hot chocolate, building shelters, finding spiders, 'cooking' with mud: they are learning, outside, together.

This is Forest School, a specialized, long-term approach to outdoor education. All over the UK, children and adults are enjoying an education in wildlife, building up their confidence, resilience, independence and creativity. The interactive sessions use learner-centered processes to promote holistic development, to teach children how to take supported risks, and to foster connections between everyone and everything involved – from teachers to children to student volunteers to trees and slugs.



This is also every Friday morning at Rose Hill Primary School in Oxford, when student volunteers, teachers, children and Forest School Leaders get together, outside, to learn. We spend our Fridays exploring the five ways to wellbeing – connecting, being active, taking notice, learning and giving.

How does it work? For several years now, University students have been volunteering outdoors at Rose Hill Primary School. This is coordinated through the Oxford Hub, a platform which connects volunteers and community-led social action projects. This year, with the help of Sarah Lawfull – a forest school leader

– the Volunteering initiative is gaining momentum. Staff at Rose Hill, Sarah and myself, as a Hub Project coordinator, have launched a pilot training project which has enabled seven University students, as well as school staff, to gain Level 1 Forest School accreditation whilst running outdoor sessions at the school.

Throughout October and November, clad in rain jackets and wellies, children from Reception (in the morning) and Year 3 (in the afternoon) spent two hours exploring the outdoors whilst learning about themselves, about each other and about their environment.

These sessions were transformative for the children: they gained confidence, relishing both in their freedom and in having sufficient adults to accompany them on their adventure. They were similarly transformative for us student volunteers. On top of the two hours under the Oxford sky, we spent an hour with Sarah studying the theory behind what they were seeing and doing. Discovering the ethos and principles of Forest School interactively gave us a cherished break from the University Bubble, from its intensity, its libraries and its deadlines.

Our project is novel and high-impact. It creates an intergenerational dialogue – between primary school children, ourselves and trained educators – ‘towns’ of all ages and ‘gowns’ of all ages united within the outdoors. It is also novel in its inter-university dimension: I’ve got to know driven students from both Brookes University and Oxford University.



Exploring the connections between Forest School and Human Sciences, our engaging and topical degree, has shown me how relevant the project is to addressing current nature knowledge devolution. Both children and adults (including myself!) are spending less time outdoors, and less time learning about the outdoors, which has contributed to widespread human-nature disconnectedness. Yet as I read about ethnobiology, in order to care for trees and bugs, we need to know them first: Forest School thus becomes a step towards the long-term protection of the beautiful British greenery. Neurology classes from last year have also helped me understand the potential implications of ‘nature deficit disorder’ for



behavior and mental wellness. As such, Forest School can also be a holistic, innovative means of addressing population-level health issues.

On the whole, my time developing the project has shown me how relevant Forest School is to human sciences, and to humans in general. In bringing universities, children and adults, towns and gowns, and people and nature together, this project is very exciting - I hope to see it flourish! If you have any questions or advice on how to help it grow, please

email me at sydney.vennin@st-hughs.ox.ac.uk.

Sydney Vennin, Second Year Human Scientist (St Hugh's)

2018 Prizes

The Bob Hiorns Prize

This year's Bob Horns Prize was awarded to Gabrielle Lynch (St Hugh's College) for the best performance in the Final Honour School of Human Sciences.

Gabrielle writes

"I am immensely grateful to have been awarded the Bob Hiorns memorial prize. I can only thank the fantastic tutors and wonderful staff who so brilliantly put together such an engaging course. I have had the most fantastic time in Oxford over the past three years, and my enjoyment of Human Sciences has been a central part of that. This year has no doubt produced another great cohort who will bring their unique Human Sciences perspective to everything they do, hopefully, myself included. Wishing everyone the best of luck and looking forward to seeing all of the interesting and surprising paths we take from here on out."

The Wilma Crowther Prizes

The 2018 Wilma Crowther Prizes were awarded jointly to

Ella Grodzinski (Mansfield College) for her dissertation on "‘Her worth is far above rubies’: Women's position and its demographic consequences in an Ultra-Orthodox Jewish community" and

Ava Scott (Hertford College) for her dissertation on "Humans of New America: Fur, Fusion and Femininity".

We asked Ava to tell us about her dissertation.

I took a long time to decide what to do my dissertation on. The vast academic world that Human Sciences covers has always been the most exciting but most bewildering characteristic of the subject. I knew I was interested in the way culture influences population genetics, and have always found colonial history and imperial 'contact' a fascinating anthropological era. Hence, I set out to

investigate the genetic effects of these encounters on Native North American populations. This was an attempt to bring seemingly divergent disciplines together, genetic admixture analysis and historical-demographic-anthropological literature, in classic HumSci style.

I scoured the internet for any measurements of European admixture in Native American populations, including crude protein-based methods from the middle of last century to the most modern sequencing technology. Having aggregated data from around 40 Native populations, a tentative pattern emerged across the region; there is far higher European contribution in the northeast compared to the southern states. As expected, a huge sex bias was also observed, with Y-chromosomes often exhibiting very high levels of European haplotypes, but mitochondrial DNA remaining exclusively Native.

I discussed various mechanisms that could explain these observations, including self-identification issues and the definition of 'indigenous' during data collection. Perhaps the most intuitive explanation could be historically elevated occurrences of interracial unions in the Northern regions. To investigate this hypothesis, I conducted a smaller scale analysis on one particular language group, the Algonquians of North East America, including Ojibwe and Cree peoples, to address how and why they exhibit such high rates of European admixture.

Heavily involved in the transatlantic fur trade between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, the ancestors of these Algonquian populations had a long history of contact with Europeans. The exchange of items such as fur, weapons, alcohol and knowledge was accompanied with the fusion of genes and the creation of a new generation of peoples with both European and Native ancestry. Rather than a one-way influence of culture on genes, the inverse may also be observed: the admixture of genes contributing to the new culture of 'fur trade society'. The dual heritage of the 'mixed-blood' generation allowed them to navigate the fur trade cultural landscape, occupying a middle-man niche in the colonial economy. My dissertation hence became a regional portrait attempting to illustrate how genetic admixture and cultural admixture can catalyse each other, a relatively under-investigated relationship in co-evolutionary theory. I modified a model of co-evolution to embrace this evolutionary 'fusion' dynamic, a transient positive feedback cycle between two heritage systems.

I found researching and writing the dissertation a satisfying challenge, using the evolutionary framework to creatively embrace all elements of the Human Sciences course. I would be more than happy to share the dissertation with anyone who may be interested in it!

Ava Scott

Gibbs Prizes

This year's main Gibbs Prize was awarded to:

Sydney Vennin (St Hugh's College)

and book prizes were awarded to:

Carlo Quadrio Curzio (Magdalen College)

Megan James (St John's College)

Alice Worsley (St Hugh's College)

Leonie Glasson (Keble College)

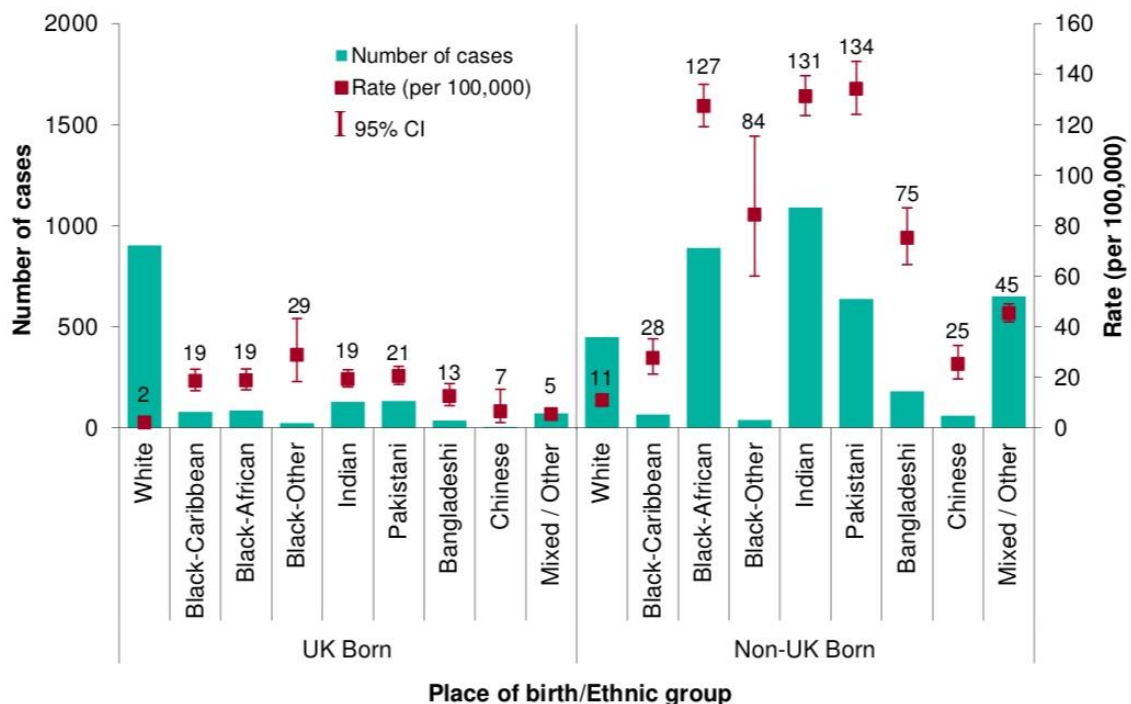
Katie Medd (Wadham College)

Many congratulations to all our prize winners and to everyone who passed Prelims and Finals this year.

The biological and social influences on TB incidence among migrants and ethnic minorities in the UK

In the UK, migrants and ethnic minorities have higher rates of tuberculosis (TB) compared with the general population. According to the most recent Public Health England data, in 2016 nearly three-quarters of those diagnosed with TB disease in the UK were foreign-born, with India and Pakistan the most frequent countries of birth among such cases. While TB rates have been falling slowly across all UK populations since 2011, they remain 15 times higher in the foreign-born than the UK-born population.

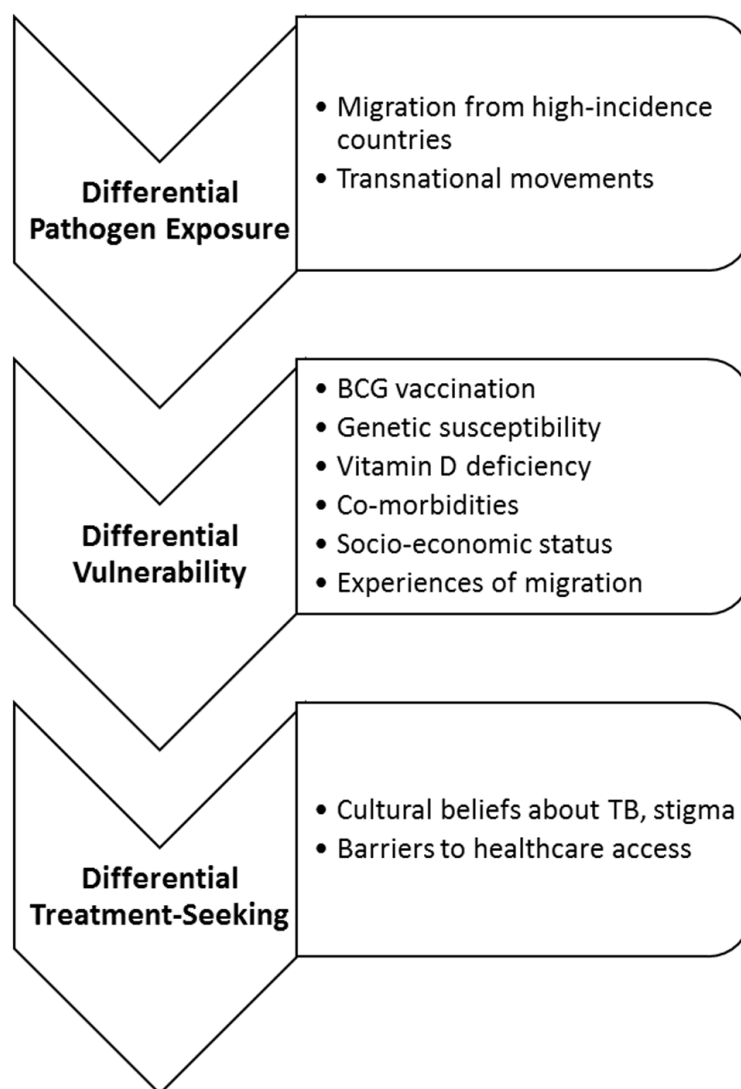
TB case notifications and rates by place of birth and ethnic group, England, 2016.
Source: Public Health England (2017) *Tuberculosis in England: 2017 report*.



Please note: rates by ethnic group are displayed as labels.

The media have often claimed that migrants and ethnic minorities ‘import’ TB to the UK. For example, according to *The Daily Express* following a TB outbreak in Leicester in 2001, “we are still vulnerable to infection from other countries” because “immigrants and visitors from less medically advanced countries can carry the infection into Britain”. In this way, migrants and ethnic minorities are stigmatised and labelled as carriers of infectious disease.

This popular view attributes the disparity in TB rates solely to higher exposure among migrants and ethnic minorities to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*M.tb*) in high-incidence countries, where they were born and/or maintain transnational connections. Although this undoubtedly plays an important role, assuming that it is the only driver fails to address the complex interplay of factors influencing the vulnerability of particular migrant and ethnic groups to infection and progression from latent infection to active disease.



There are various biomedical factors that increase the vulnerability of migrants and ethnic minorities to TB. The only available TB vaccine, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), doesn't provide reliable protection in many migrant countries of origin such as India, hypothesised to be due to exposure to non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM).

While contested, there is evidence to suggest that genetic ancestry plays a role in greater TB susceptibility, particularly in African populations. This is likely due to their later exposure to modern *M.tb* strains compared with European populations, who have developed greater resistance through centuries of host-pathogen co-evolution.

Among Asian populations, it is thought that vitamin D deficiency contributes to increased susceptibility. Certain migrant and ethnic groups are also at higher risk of various conditions that impair immunity and therefore increase risk of progression to active TB disease, such as diabetes mellitus, HIV and chronic kidney disease.

Against this biological backdrop, a fundamental driver behind the observed disparity is the association between TB and poverty. Migrants and ethnic minorities in the UK are more likely to be

socio-economically disadvantaged, and there is a recognised role for poverty, homelessness and overcrowding in the spread of TB infection and the number of active cases.

In addition, the difficulties and stresses faced during and shortly after migration can weaken the immune system and increase risk of progression to active TB disease. Moreover, certain migrant and ethnic groups face barriers to accessing treatment including cultural differences in treatment-seeking behaviours, stigmatisation of sufferers, and barriers to healthcare access. The resultant delays in diagnosis and treatment lead to increased transmission and incidence in these communities.

Currently, migrants from countries with high TB incidences are screened for active TB before entry to the UK. However, such measures only address the driver of differential exposure to *M.tb*. More consideration must be given to policies concerned with the vulnerability of migrants to reactivation of latent TB infection following arrival in the UK. This might include vitamin D supplementation, managing co-morbidities, and the promotion of socio-economic equity and migrant rights.

To reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment, and thereby minimise transmission within migrant and ethnic minority communities, increased health education on TB causation, risk and transmission is required, as well as tackling stigmatisation of vulnerable groups. It is also important to raise awareness of migrants' entitlement to diagnosis and treatment through the NHS, alongside reducing cultural, economic and political barriers to its access.

Sally Hayward, St John's, 2014-17

Explaining the higher incidence of TB among migrants and ethnic minorities in the UK formed the topic of my Human Sciences dissertation, and with the help of my supervisors Dr Rachel Tanner and Dr Rosalind Harding we wrote it up for publication. The full article is available at <https://f1000research.com/articles/7-461/v2>.

A Human Scientist gets his hands on the Christmas Lectures

I did my Human Sciences degree back in the early 90s, when the field of "Science Communication" was much smaller than it is today. Of course, we all hurried to see that year's Royal Institution Christmas Lecturer Richard Dawkins give his first year Animal Behaviour lectures, but back then he was simply the author of some bestselling popular science books, rather than the wild eyed prophet of Atheism. After my degree I fell into teaching for 6 years, but in 2000 I had the great good fortune to get a job delivering science shows to schools, for an organisation who paid for me to do a Masters in Science Communication at the Open University. Since then I have worked for a small science centre, the Research Councils, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Wellcome Trust. And 18 months ago I came to the Royal Institution, where I delight in the title of Head of Education: if you're ever passing through Mayfair then pop in for a coffee and say hello!

The most significant part of my job is making the Christmas Lectures relevant to the 21st Century. This is a challenge: they were set up in 1825, and a lot of their strength is in their depth of tradition. My job is to make them "the centrepiece of a 21st Century approach to science engagement", which is the rhetoric in the RI Strategic Plan, but which is also the role that I think they should be playing.

But I'll be honest: the Christmas Lectures are a funny beast. Freightened with nearly 200 years of history, they are one of the totems of the science tribe. The people who watch are fiercely loyal but not many of them are from our target audience of 11-17 year olds. We have to accept that in 2018 young people do not consume television by watching BBC4 at 8pm on Boxing Day, and so we're

trying to change the way that the programme works in three ways. Firstly, we are making the Lectures easier to segment into shorter segments for platforms like YouTube. Secondly, we are putting more emphasis on what happens outside the TV programme, with more activities related to the lecture topic taking place in schools and community settings. Thirdly, we are making the content more “Human Science-ish”, by having big thematic topics which raise moral and ethical questions where we can expect young people to have an opinion, whatever their level of scientific education: “Why does this matter? To whom? Who wins? Who loses?”. All this is in the context of a TV industry which is very conservative, and so we have to keep some gee-whiz flashes and bangs, and avoid some topics that the BBC deem are too controversial for family viewing.

So what does this mean in practice? Well in my first year in charge, 2017, our lecturer was the cognitive psychologist Sophie Scott, looking at animal and human communication. The schools debate was on online privacy, with a nod to Gregory Bateson, who I first read as an undergrad. In 2018 our lecturer is the anthropologist Alice Roberts looking at evolution, and what it means to be human. The schools debate will be looking at Nature and Nurture (possibly with specific reference to sex and gender if I can get it past the censors).

In short, what I’m trying to do is to promote the idea that “everything is connected to everything else”. It’s an idea which was drummed into me as “The 1st Rule of Ecology” by the late Robin McCleery when he was my Director of Studies, but I think it underpins a lot of Human Sciences. It is my role to bring that idea of complex interconnectedness to the Christmas Lectures as I shepherd them into the future.

Dom McDonald (Wadham 91-94) dmcDonald@ri.ac.uk @theoxforddom

Women Behind the Wheel: Unheard Voices on the Pamir Highway

In July & August 2018, a year after graduating from Oxford, I travelled to Central Asia to begin filming for a documentary with a fellow ex-student from Oxford. The film is a culmination of nearly 2 years planning and fundraising, and will be finished in Summer 2019.

Here's a short synopsis:

The road-trip is inherently male, so as two young women driving 3000km along the 2nd highest road



on Earth, our journey not only challenges the stereotypes still prevailing in Western media, but brings us into contact with women living in some of the remotest regions of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan. Our film tells their powerful stories and brings a female perspective to a typically male-dominated region and visual genre.

As (potentially) the first solo women to drive this route, we constantly document ourselves – the challenges we face as female drivers, travellers and tourists, and our ability to overcome those hurdles. There are inevitable calamities (no road trip is complete without), but an inopportune break down is the very thing that brings us into contact with a certain woman or hidden community. Our

own development, both as individuals, females and friends, confronting challenges while pushing ourselves to new limits, provides a frank and relatable backbone to the narrative. We're taking a relatable point of access – driving – and using it to take our audience on a journey into the unknown.

More importantly we bring a microphone to the unheard voices of local women. Along our route we'll meet members of Kyrgyzstan's only LGBTQ support group, women running their own brewery, survivors of domestic abuse, Tajikistan's first female trekking guides, Taekwondo champions combating GBV, Uzbeki business women, bee-farmers, conservative Muslims, radical atheists and, we think, the oldest gynecologist in Central Asia! Our conversations and interactions with a rich diversity of women bring an intimacy to our road trip – emphasising that common bonds can be formed between women of all backgrounds and humanising this vastly under-explored stretch of road.

No one story is the same, but all have one thing in common – they speak for themselves: these are stories worth sharing; women worth listening to.

Our trailer is available here on our facebook page: [Women Behind the Wheel](#)

We are currently in the process of fundraising for our post-production. If you're aware of suitable grants/funds please get in touch. If you would like to personally contribute we'd be extremely grateful: [Click here to support Unheard Voices on the Pamir Highway organized by Catherine and Hannah](#)

Catherine Haigh (Keble, 2017)

Graduate News

1974

Geza Tatrallyay (St Catherine's) has had the third book of his 'Twisted' trilogy of international crime thrillers, *Twisted Fates* published in 2018 (June , by Black Opal Books). Also, his second collection of poems, *Sighs And Murmurs*, many written while he was at Oxford, was published in April 2018. This year also saw his debut as a children's picture storybook author with the publication at the end of September of *The Waffle and the Pancake*, a take-off on the Hansel and Gretel fairy tale. His next novel, *The Rainbow Vinter*, an international political thriller largely set in Bordeaux, will be published early in 2019 and his third poetry collection *Extinction* is to be published in April. All his books are available on Amazon and other online retailers as well as in selective bookstores, or by following the links on his [website](#).

1993

Anne Britton (St Anne's) is now a Professor of Epidemiology at UCL and also the Director of Studies. Several Human Scientists have studied for PhDs with the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care and she is always happy to discuss this as an option for current students.

2002

Tim Myatt (St Anne's) having completed his DPhil in Tibetan & Himalayan Studies at Wolfson College in 2011, joined a spin-out company of the University called Oxford Risk. Oxford Risk offers a range of tools and consultancy models to help institutions better understand behavioural finance, risk

appetite and tolerance. However after 8 years advising international banks and finance corporations it was time to return to his roots and find a job that was more emotionally and academically rewarding and stimulating. In April 2017 Tim took on the role of Digital Partnerships Manager at the Pitt Rivers Museum. This job is the perfect opportunity to mix his academic background with the skills he had developed in finance. Over the years the museum has almost osmotically become part of his life and way of thinking. The opportunity to use new digital technologies to bring the wealth of the PRM's collections to new and wider audiences is both a challenge and a fantastic prospect. Last year Tim and his wife were also blessed by the arrival of a daughter, Arwen. While being a father is exhausting in a way he was totally unprepared for, Arwen is a source of pure joy. She has made Tim rethink priorities and focus on what is important in life, and he has never looked back. Arwen does however make regular appearances in the museum!

2003

Emma Harper (St Catz) has recently set up independent practise at her home in High Wycombe in the newly developed field of Psychosexual Somatics Therapy (PST). This modality, designed to support the human body to complete incomplete trauma responses from both childhood developmental and adult experiences of trauma and restore the body to its natural capacity for aliveness, connectivity and healthy sexual expression was developed by world renowned trauma therapist Mike Lousada, made famous by his feature in the book "Vagina". Transitioning from a field in accountancy and business Emma's practise returns her to her passion of what makes us human and how do we connect and relate to one another and ourselves in our physical bodies. Emma is excited to expand her work to support others who, like her, may have become detached from the potentiality of real intimacy and powerful expression through the body due to the challenges of acclimatising to a masculine culture where domination of thinking and a need to survive the complexities of the human experience often results in disconnection from the power residing in our heart, guts and genital. Emma believes strongly in the potential for radical personal, business and social transformation through reconnection to the heart. Further details of Emma's practise and this ground-breaking modality can be found on her [website](#).

2011

Olivia Ruttley (Harris Manchester) was inspired by her Human Sciences dissertation on Twin Pregnancies to go to medical school after Oxford and is now working as a doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

2014

Hettie Davies (Hertford) has been working as a child protection social worker for the last three years and is now applying for graduate medicine courses.

2016

Sam Milliken-Smith (Hertford) graduated from the Human Sciences course in 2016. He was lucky enough to spend his first few months out of university living and working in a safari camp on the Galapagos Islands – an incredible experience that brought many of the HumSci lectures to life! Returning to the UK, Sam worked at 2020 Delivery, a consulting firm supporting the public sector and, in particular, healthcare organisations. This meant for a range of projects, including across the NHS & with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. He has now returned to university life for a short while having just begun a Masters in Bioscience Enterprise at Cambridge University, a course

combining biotechnology & business. Studying Human Sciences was an absolute pleasure and the multidisciplinary nature of the degree has proven incredibly useful – Sam is delighted and fortunate some of his work from this time has been published. You can read his article on ‘Paternal origins of obesity: Emerging evidence for incorporating epigenetic pathways into the social determinants of health framework’ on-line in [Social Sciences and Medicine](#)

Rose Stevens (Wadham) has just started studying for a DPhil back here in Oxford in Anthropology with Dr Alex Alvergne. Prior to starting this, she was working for a maternal health NGO in Ethiopia to evaluate the usefulness of a smartphone app as an aid for rural midwives. Rose then went on to study for an MSc in Demography and Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as part of the Evolutionary Demography lab group. She would really recommend this course to any human sciences graduate as it incorporates many of the skills taught at undergrad and shows how they can be applied to real world public health challenges. Rose’s DPhil is looking at reproductive health and women’s experiences of side-effects whilst using hormonal contraception. Specifically, she will be focusing on the variation in hormone levels between women living in different socioecological contexts in Ethiopia and how this may lead them to experience a greater or lower burden of side-effects.

2017

Jess Mundy (St Hugh’s) is studying at the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, which is part of King’s College London. She has been accepted onto the 1+3 studentship which is a funded masters and PhD. At the moment, Jess is studying the gene-environment interaction for multiple psychiatric and cognitive disorders including schizophrenia, depression, ADHD, autism and anxiety. For her PhD she is specialising in the genetic basis for major depression, bipolar disorder and PTSD.

Lucjan Kaliniecki (St Catherine’s) is currently working as a civil servant in the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local government. He is the Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Bourne, who is the Minister for Faith. Lucjan gets to cover the department’s policy area on hate crime and integration, which is what he did his dissertation on! Studying Human Sciences has set Lucjan up so well for this role. He has a hectic schedule covering a range of areas (from building houses to Islamophobia) and is regularly back and forth between the department and Parliament – not unlike the breadth of the course, and darting back and forth between Catz and the Pauling Centre! Lucjan would be happy to talk to any HumScis interested in his job or a career in the civil service.

Celebrating Fifty Year of Human Sciences

2019 will see the fiftieth anniversary of the University passing the necessary regulations to set up the degree in Human Sciences. The first students were admitted to the course in 1970 and graduated in 1972 (having taken Prelims in another subject). We would like to mark the impact of the Human Sciences degree over the last fifty years and to celebrate our alumni who have benefitted from the degree and who have had an impact on the world. We’d love to hear from any alumni about how Human Sciences has influenced their lives and careers and suggestions of alumni who you think have made important contributions to the world. We’d also welcome suggestions from alumni of how you would like to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Human Sciences.

Keeping in touch

Human Sciences E-mail list

If you don't currently receive our newsletter by e-mail and would like to do so and be added to the Human Sciences e-mail list to receive updates on Human Sciences events, please contact sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk

Follow us on Twitter



You can also keep up with all the latest news from Human Sciences by following us on Twitter [@Oxford_HumSci](https://twitter.com/Oxford_HumSci) We are happy to pass on any news about HumScis which you think our followers might be interested in. Do contact sarah-jane.white@ihs.ox.ac.uk if you have news for us to Tweet!

Human Sciences Society Facebook Group



The Human Sciences Society has a group on Facebook which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/93254436688/>

Human Sciences Linked-In Group



You can join the LinkedIn Group for Human Scientists at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8607787>