

# RaiSS-IT!

**Research and Innovation in Social Sciences:**  
**Inspiration and Transformation**



## EDITORIAL

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the second research newsletter for this academic session. Since our last edition our REF submission has been dispatched successfully and we have had some fantastic news about successful grant capture. This means that our research income across the School has risen by a massive 353% since 2012-13 which is a huge achievement and worthy of celebration.

All divisions within the School are currently working on their research strategies so that we capitalise on the momentum we have been building for the REF. These strategies are feeding into our School-wide research plan and I hope to be able to share more about this with you in the next newsletter. We have research groups and clusters developing in all areas and we are

currently shortlisting projects for the VC bursary competition which we hope will lead to some newly recruited PhD students across the School in 2014-15.

In this edition we welcome some of our new staff, and highlight how our excellent research is developing in all areas of the School. The level of activity captured in this edition demonstrates that far from taking a rest, having successfully achieved our REF submissions, we are busy sustaining and developing our research for the future. We should be very proud of all we have achieved already in this academic session and once again I thank you for all your hard work and contributions that make our School of Social Sciences a truly vibrant research community.

**February 2014  
Issue 9**

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# POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



## Conferences

Politics and International Relations are organising three national and international conferences to take place in 2014. These events are being led by three of our new research clusters.

The *Ethics, Ecology, Identity* research cluster have arranged a one-day workshop that will draw together an interdisciplinary field of academics and artists from across the UK who find themselves engaged with questions concerning our relation to 'nature' and the nature of relationality. Ranging across the fields of ethics, politics and art, the event will provide a forum for the sustained interrogation of contemporary trajectories of thought and practice, and a platform for the further development of novel interdisciplinary approaches to pressing, global-ecological concerns.

Keynote speakers will be Tom Tyler from Oxford Brookes University and Arto Haapala who is Professor of Aesthetics at the University of Helsinki. The workshop will be held in collaboration with, and based at, the Nottingham Contemporary on 6 May 2014. This event has received funding from the School of Social Sciences.

A second conference has been organised by Dr Chris Baker-Beale and colleagues in the Division's *Insecurity Political Violence and Change* research cluster. The cluster has received funding from the British International Studies Association (BISA) to run this two-day international event on behalf of the Critical Studies on Terrorism Working Group (CST) in September 2014. The conference, "Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and (Neo)Liberalsim: Vernacular Perspectives", follows Chris's successful co-ordination of the conference at Loughborough University in 2013. CST was established in 2006 to provide an international network for scholars working on terrorism-related research, and has a genuinely global in reach with over 250 current members. There will be two national and one international keynote speakers, and the conference working group has also secured policymakers and practitioners in the field of counter-terrorism as conference speakers.

The third conference has been organised by PhD students based within the Division, under the direction of Dr Imad El-Anis and the new *Middle East and North Africa* research cluster. Funded by the School of Social Sciences and also the Research offices in the College of Business, Law and Social Sciences and the College of Arts and Science, this will be a one day interdisciplinary event to explore the implications of change and transformation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the region's relationship with the major actors in Asia (meaning state and non-state actors). The conference will be aimed at post-graduate and early career researchers and specialists. It will be an interdisciplinary event, drawing on interests and expertise across the disciplines of international relations, global studies, history and media.



## Research dissemination

Dr Marie Gibert has had an article published in a special issue prepared through two authors' workshops, one of which was held at NTU in January 2013, 'Dissonant Paths to Partnership and Convergence: EU-Africa Relations Between Experimentation and Resistance', *African Security* (6), pp. 191-210. Marie gave a short presentation, on 22nd January 2014, on the Hissène Habré Affair (Chad/Senegal) at a roundtable on justice and human rights in Africa at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Matt Ashton has had a number of radio, television and in print opportunities on topics from the politics of Dr who to Nelson Mandela's death and the new whitepaper for an independent Scotland.



Dr Rose Gann attended the annual American Political Science Association teaching and learning conference in Philadelphia (07-09 Feb 2014) and presented the paper 'Internationalising the Social Sciences Curricula in a UK HEI'. As a member of the Political Studies association's executive committee, Dr Gann along with Dr Jacqui Briggs (Lincoln university), went on to visit colleagues in the American Political Science Association (APSA) at their National office in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the visit was to find out more information on the ways in which APSA engage with the undergraduate student body in the USA. The visit forms part of Dr Gann's role on the PSA executive this year - which as a member of the PSA executive education and skills committee is to develop and implement a strategy of undergraduate student engagement for the PSA, UK.

Professor Matt Henn has completed a commissioned article with Nick Foard that they were invited to write for *Sociology Review* ("Young People, Power and Politics in Britain") which will be published in April 2014 (issue 4 of the 2013/14 volume). They were also invited by the e-journal *Society Central* to submit an article on whether a system of compulsory voting should be introduced for young people to help solve the emerging generational disparity in electoral participation rates in Britain. This has been published at <http://societycentral.ac.uk/2013/12/03/compulsory-voting-would-it-get-young-people-engaged-with-politics/>. These publications are based on research completed for a project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (£77,000), "Young people and politics in Britain: How do young people participate in politics and what can be done to strengthen their political connection?". This project has now been evaluated and graded as: "*Research of strong international quality and strong impact within its field, with publications submitted to (or published in) leading journals or other academic outlets; and/or high quality research with evidence of substantial impact on policy and practice*".

Dr Matt Henn is Professor of Social Research in the Division of Politics and International Relations

## PSYCHOLOGY



The new year has seen a range of research activity in psychology. We are particularly pleased with the continued success of our undergraduate and postgraduate researchers funded through the NTU SPUR scheme and also a prestigious external bursary from the British Psychological Society. Students Freyja Nash and Robert Wilding who job shared a SPUR project led by Viv Brunsden, Rowena Hill and Duncan Guest presented their work at the NTU SPUR conference. They also presented their work at the Institute of Fire Engineers/Fire Services College Annual Conference on Fire Related Research & Developments where they won the FIRE/Gore Research Institute Award for Best research Poster. The work focused on the potential for social media to be used to promote community fire safety. Holly Walton, who was awarded a BPS Undergraduate Research Assistantship to work with Mhairi Bowe and Viv Brunsden exploring place identity in the elderly, has had a submission accepted to present at the British Conference of Undergraduate research.

Postgraduate students on the MSc Psychological Wellbeing & Mental Health and MSc Forensic Mental Health have been provided with commissions for consultancy research by a number of external partners. Students are researching the questions posed by these organisations and will feedback to them at a conference in May. Organisations providing commissions this year include: the charity Men Understanding, Treating and Experiencing Depression (MUTED); Pre-retirement Consultant Services Ltd.; Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service; Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service; Northumbria Fire & Rescue Service; Raphael Healthcare (The Farndon Unit); and the journal *Housing, Care and Support*.

Recent publication highlights include PhD student Angelica Ortiz De Gortari's research into 'Game Transfer Phenomena' supervised by Professor Mark Griffiths was published in the International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction on January 3. Dr Karen Slade published an open access comment article in The Lancet on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 entitled 'Preventing Suicide and Self-harm in prisoners: job half done'. The article responds to recent research on self-harm in prisons and encourages new ways of thinking about research and practice in this area.

# News cont'd



On the international front Mark Torrance hosted a research visit in January from Professor Guido Nottbusch (Potsdam University) to work on data from the multi-language written picture-naming project (collaborating with research teams in Belgium Bulgaria Finland Germany Greece Italian Norway Portugal Russia Spain Sweden Iceland France). Later that month Psychology also hosted an Erasmus-funded visit from Dennis Pauly (Potsdam University) to collect eye tracking data exploring effects of German-style capitalisation on reading English sentences. Professor Mark Griffiths has been hosting Dr Orlatz Lopez Fernandez, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain) on an Erasmus+ staff mobility exchange; they have submitted one academic paper for publication and are currently working on a second.

There has also been further success in terms of grant capture. Dr Sarah Seymour-Smith who is part of a cross-NTU team who won £50K with a recent bid to NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group for a project called "Barriers & Inequalities: Towards a Better Understanding of the Poor Prognostic Outcomes for Prostate Cancer in the African-Caribbean Community". David Brown is the principal investigator and co-applicants based at NTU are Sarah Seymour-Smith and Graham Pockley. The idea is to conduct some preliminary studies and work up a proposal for a much larger bid elsewhere. This is definitely an exciting possibility for future development of multi-disciplinary work. The Ministry of Justice are keen to continue and extend the evaluation of the anti-libidinal medication service at HMP Whatton and as such have agreed to provide the Sexual Offences Crime and Misconduct Research Unit (SOCAMRU, Psychology) with £69,000 funding for 2014 to allow this work to continue.

Dr Thom Baguley is Professor of Experimental Psychology in the Division of Psychology



## SOCIAL WORK, PROFESSIONALISM AND PRACTICE

### Course News

BA Social Work Final year tutor, Simon Howard has enhanced social work employability links with Nottinghamshire County Council. With human resources and practitioners being invited to speak to the students at NTU and NTU students being asked to attend a social work recruitment and development event at Nottinghamshire County Council

BA Social Work endorsed by The College of Social Work and approved by the regulator for Social Work-The Health and Care Professions Councils in the autumn, one of the first in the region to be accredited by both and only course running skills days in practice agencies at Level 1 with local social care employers

A new MA in Social Work was launched in January which was oversubscribed for the number of places available.

Graham Bowpitt and Chris Ring were involved with an ERSC sponsored initiative to integrate quantitative measures into qualifying social work, 'Making Social Work Count'. The outcome of this will now be integrated into both BA and MA Social Work.

### Research

Mick Wilkinson is working with Matthew Gough with Nottingham City Council to develop an audit of practitioners working with adults in vulnerable circumstances who may make unwise decisions or refuse services.



Linda Kemp is working with a voluntary sector organisation in Leicester, Network for Change to evaluate the experience of service users who are discharged from psychiatric care services.

Matthew Gough has published 'Psychosis, Psychiatry, and Escape: A Social Work Academic's Retrospective Self-Narrative' Journal of Progressive Human Services

2013, Volume 24, Issue 3 pp. 244-253

#### International News:

Representatives from qualifying social work met with representatives from University of Florida to forge links and foster potential exchanges of staff and students.

#### Commercial News:

Matthew Gough is planning with Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Public Health to raise awareness regards suicide for World Mental Health Day by creating a film sharing testimonies from survivors of suicide.

Matthew Gough is a principal lecturer for qualifying social work .



## NTU Publications Strategy

27 January saw the launch of the NTU Publications Strategy, which aims to ensure effective publication, dissemination and curation of NTU research. This should, in turn, increase citations and also maximise impact of NTU scholarly outputs. The main drivers behind the strategy are the conditions set out by RCUK funding bodies to publish research in an open access environment, and the first-time inclusion of impact within the REF.

Staff now are expected to submit details of their research publications, with copyright compliant full text documents wherever possible, to IRep, the University repository. This process has been streamlined by the introduction of a new online submission process called PubSub. I've already received feedback from academics commenting on how easy it is to use.

Heather Shaw and I plan to brief staff about these developments in a variety of ways and will provide support on any aspect required. When submitting a document to IRep you now have to declare that the version you submit is compliant with the publisher's copyright requirements, so I anticipate this will generate plenty of requests for help. We can advise individuals about the different open access routes (gold v. green) and how to check the requirements of funding bodies. We can also provide briefings at Divisional level or to various research groups. Over the next few weeks we'll be busy devising a dissemination plan with the Research Coordinators.

The NTU Publications Strategy and supporting Good Practice Guidelines are on eCentral, and the Library's research webpages. The guide to PubSub, with the url for the submission form is also on the Library's research webpages.

Sharon Potter—Liaison Librarian

# Grant Capture



## Barriers and Inequalities: Towards a Better Understanding of the Poor Prognostic Outcomes for Prostate Cancer in the African-Caribbean Community

Our NTU colleagues David Brown, Sarah Seymour-Smith and Graham Pockley have captured £50, 000 of NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group funds for a study into the barriers and inequalities that affect the poor prognostic outcomes for with prostate cancer in the African-Caribbean community. This is a preliminary studies that will act as the basis for a much larger bid elsewhere. The study is in collaboration with Dr Safiy Karim (GP Executive Lead for Cancer), Rose Thompson (Director, Black & Ethnic), Kenneth Campbell (Treasurer of' Friends and Bredins' - African Caribbean prostate cancer support group), Frank Chinegwundoh MBE(consultant Urologist and Chair of Cancer Black Care), Penny Standen (Professor of Health Psychology and Learning Disabilities, University of Nottingham), Monica Whitty (Professor of Contemporary Media, University of Leicester) and Frank Hubbard (Professor of Respiratory Epidemiology, University of Nottingham).

Dr Sarah Seymour-Smith—Senior Lecturer, Psychology

## Social Research Ethics

Terry Gillespie has been invited to join the Ethics Committee of the British Society of Criminology. Terry and Professor Azrini Wahidin, chair of the BSC Ethics Committee, attended the final symposia on Ethics organised by the Academy of Social Sciences on the 10th January at the British Library. The final day conference was entitled 'Finding Common Ground? Research Ethics Across the Social Sciences'. The conference focused on the points raised in a discussion paper, 'Towards Common Principles for Social Science Research Ethics?' written by Professor Robert Dingwall and the other members of the Academy of Social Sciences Working Group on Ethics.

Terry Gillespie—Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Sociology

# Should we be concerned abo

In my own household, the two most popular games played by my family at the moment are the competitive casual games I have noted in a number of my posts. These include *Candy Crush Saga* and *4 Pics, 1 Word* (both highly popular games played via social networks and mobile devices). In fact, at the time of writing this article, the most popular game being played worldwide is *Candy Crush Saga* (CSS) with over 133 million users. It is estimated that they may never have been as many as 100 million people playing monthly. Most players of CSS appear to be adults (though around 10% of players are thought to be adolescents). I've heard that many of the games are fun and enjoyable to play with little or no problem. However, I share similar concerns with gambling experts, teachers, and the press about some of the more negative aspects of social gaming.

There are arguably three main concerns relating to adolescent late in-game purchasing, parental responsibility when letting their children play games, and concerns about the way games companies are allowing them to download game assets, in-game currency, and/or access to other levels within the game for real money include (i) not giving the game. Secondly, there are concerns about how engrossing store passwords, (ii) personally identifying the games can be that have led to various news reports claiming that a small minority of people appear to be “addicted” to them. Thirdly, there have been concerns that some types of counts (i.e., do not store payment information) social games are a gateway to other potentially problematic leisure activities – most notably gambling. buying of in-game extras.

eature:

# ut adolescent social gaming?

ged in social gaming will have The psychosocial impact of social gaming on adolescents is on-  
freemium social games give free ly just beginning to be investigated by people in the field of  
d, but players must pay for so- gaming studies. Empirically, we know almost nothing about  
ames like CCS, players are not the psychosocial impact of these games, although research  
e first 35 levels but after that, it suggests the playing of free games among children and adoles-  
Players can avoid paying mon- cents is one of the risk factors for both the uptake of real gam-  
facebook friends to send them bling and problem gambling.

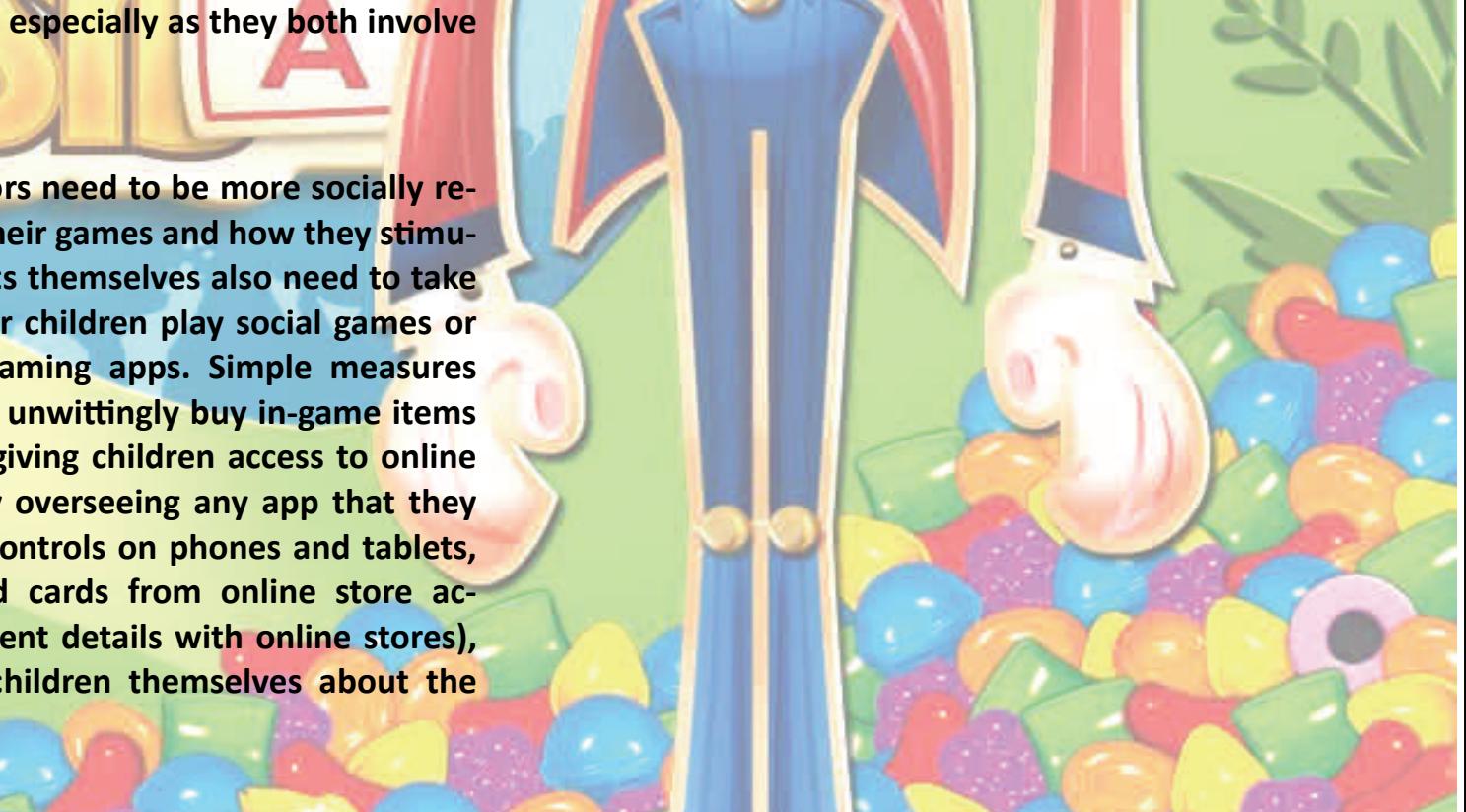
encouraged to buy 'boosters'  
's for around £1. Although this  
oney, the buying of in-game as-  
up.

y more general writings about  
working sites that 'freemium'  
n-the-door techniques that lead  
ay for games and/or game ac-  
have originally planned to buy  
to 'impulse buying' in other  
also argued in a number of ar-  
played on social network sites  
especially as they both involve

ors need to be more socially re-  
their games and how they stimu-  
s themselves also need to take  
r children play social games or  
aming apps. Simple measures  
unwittingly buy in-game items  
giving children access to online  
overseeing any app that they  
ontrols on phones and tablets,  
d cards from online store ac-  
ent details with online stores),  
children themselves about the

To date, there is less evidence that youth are developing addic-  
tions to social games although this is more due to the fact that  
scientific research has yet to study such activity. Given the  
growing evidence on adolescent online video game addiction  
and adolescent social networking addiction more generally,  
there is no reason to suppose that a small minority of children  
and adolescents would not develop an addiction to some  
types of social gaming.

Dr Mark Griffiths is Professor of Gambling Studies  
International Gaming Research Unit





### Jatinder Sandhu—Research Assistant

Dr Jatinder Sandhu is a sociologist by background and an Alumni of Nottingham Trent. She has a PhD in sociology and social policy, an MSc in Social Science Research Methods and a BA (Hons) in Social Sciences. Her research interests and expertise include social identities, ageing, social and digital inclusion and participatory methodologies. For her PhD, Jatinder undertook research in collaboration with a local adoption agency to investigate the changing reasons and experiences of birth mothers who relinquished their children for adoption. This involved extensive documentary analysis of adoption records and agency documentation – dating back to the 1940s. Since 2009, Jatinder has been involved in a large multi-disciplinary project (Sus-IT project: <http://sus-it.lboro.ac.uk/>) which has focused on how to help older ICT users to stay connected to the digital world given the barriers they face - which can quickly erode their confidence and capability to use digital technologies. In this project, Jatinder was responsible for leading on user engagement activities with groups and communities of older people (involving over a 1000 older people in the project) as well as conducting research into the barriers older adults face in staying connected. She also worked with groups and communities of older people and key stakeholder groups to generate user-specified solutions to overcome the barriers older adults had identified. From June 2011, Jatinder worked as a freelance researcher to further her interests in community engagement and digital inclusion agendas. She also undertook a number evaluation and training projects for clients such as Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Online, Dolphin Computer Access LTD, Adept Ergonomics and NowHeritage. Jatinder is delighted to have joined the Sociology Division as an RA at a time when research is at the heart of the agenda.

### Claire Cohen—Lecturer

I'm a critical criminologist, reading for a PhD with the University of Nottingham - thesis title: 'Male Rape is a Feminist Issue: Feminism, Governmentality and Male Rape'; my monograph, of the same name, (2014) is published by Palgrave (description & overview here: <http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=322627> Please have a look - you might find it interesting; I always appreciate people who do, so if that's you - do get in touch).

You might think that my specialism is sexual violence, but that isn't the case. My research interests are varied, but are unified by a passion for epistemology, an interest in 'power' and a subscription to the critical stances. I am a recovering Marxist and a not-very-closeted Foucauldian. Areas that sing to me include: critical criminology, critical psychology, critical policing, critical victimology and critical theory (you can never be too critical...). I'm particularly bothered by consensus – this irritates me beyond measure. In practice, this means I spend my time prodding at issues you might think long-dead – be they marginalised and neglected, or mainstream and treasured. This entails substantive areas such as law and social policy, and – because I am very kind to myself – aspects from cultural criminology, such as film, gaming, popular music and (the so-called) 'new' media - including social media and fan fiction.

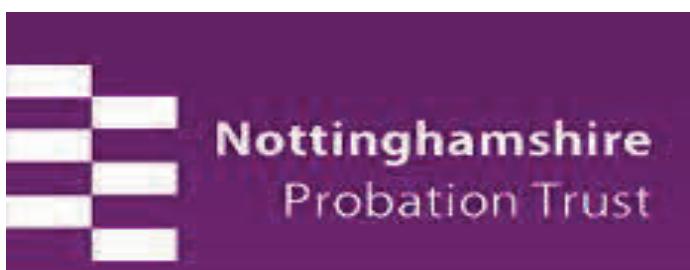
Enduring concerns include – but are not limited to - the criminalization and scapegoating of marginalised groups, and the social construction and reification of derogated identities. For example: the Islamicization of 'terrorism'; the particularized construct of the 'female' terrorist; male victims of domestic and sexual(ised) violence; the 'female' sexual predator; child on child 'rape' and sexual offending. Above all, my engagement is guided by Foucault's imperative to 'think differently' – by definition such work is neither popular nor populist. So, if your areas of criminological interest are 'different', be they marginal, distasteful, maligned or perhaps even ridiculed, maybe they overlap with mine? Formerly of CCCU, where I was SL in Criminology and Programme Director for and creator of the present Crime & Policing degree, I've written several modules concerned with problematizing criminology - including ones pertaining to victimology, criminological psychology, terrorism and political violence, the police and policing.

## **Lisa Sanderson—Doctoral Student**

Lisa Sanderson started her PhD in January having been awarded a Psychology PhD Bursary. Lisa completed her undergraduate degree in English literature and History at Staffordshire University and then went on to pursue a successful career in the civil service. However during this time she developed a keen interest in Psychology and so enrolled on the MSc in Psychology at NTU in 2009. Lisa graduated with a Distinction having developed a particular interest in adult mental health. Her Masters research project 'We think we are invincible: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of help seeking behaviours in the military' explored the barriers to seeking help for psychological difficulties that currently exist within the military. This research was submitted to the Emergency Services Conference, November 2012, where it won Best Student Poster. On completion of her MSc Lisa continued her work with the military as she was employed as a voluntary Research Assistant by NTU working with The Emergency Services Research Unit on an evaluation of the first year of the Combat Stress Helpline. This research was also presented at conference. When the opportunity came up to return to NTU working with the Emergency Services Research Unit again Lisa was delighted. Lisa's PhD will focus on posttraumatic growth within the Fire and Rescue Service. Although there has been a substantial amount of recent research in the area of posttraumatic growth this has largely focused on clinical populations. The Fire and Rescue Service are a population who are constantly exposed to traumatic incidents but do not necessarily experience subsequent traumatic stress. Specifically, the PhD will explore how growth is experienced within this population and seek to develop a theoretical model to explain the variability and complexity of psychological reactions to traumatic experience. It is anticipated that this research will have important implications not only for the Fire and Rescue Service but also for clinical practice.



**Over the next few pages we highlight the success of our projects across the school. We begin with the Nottinghamshire Probation: A collaborative oral history project**



In March 2012, the coalition Government published their 'Punishment and Reform: Effective Probation Services' consultation, which outlined plans for wholesale changes to the way that probation services are commissioned and delivered in England and Wales. The subsequent 'transforming rehabilitation' agenda and Offender Rehabilitation Bill (2013) sees a seismic shift in the way rehabilitative support for offenders will be delivered and managed. Amongst other things, the Government intends to implement the widening of community offender support to competition on a payment by results basis. To facilitate these changes, the role of the probation service will change significantly from May 22, 2014. Replacing probation trusts will be a National Probation Service (NPS) with responsibility for high-risk offenders and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC's) to manage low and medium risk offenders. CRC's will be run by Tier 1 providers, who are likely to include private sector organisations, large charities and even probation mutuals. Tier 1 providers will in turn commission services from Tier 2 medium-sized charities and social

enterprises and Tier 3 smaller, local organisations. Relating these changes to this region, Nottinghamshire Probation Trust (NPT) will be disbanded, with Offender Management services being bid for as part of a geographical Contract Package Area (CPA), encompassing Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The CPA within which Nottinghamshire will be located, currently has an Offender Management value of between £24-29.4 million.

Inevitably, the potential operational and organisational impacts of the ‘rehabilitation revolution’ have been the subject of much professional and academic debate. Less obviously, however, is the potential impact for socio-historical narratives and interpretations of publicly funded offender management interventions at the local level to be lost in the transition to the ‘rehabilitation revolution’ (owing primarily to the dispersal of knowledge and experience). Against this background, the Nottingham Galleries of Justice, NPT and NTU (the ‘partnership’) are working collaboratively to ensure that future generations of Nottingham(shire) citizens retain an understanding of the role that NPT (and previous organisational incarnations) have played in: 1) delivering desistance-focused rehabilitative interventions and; 2) how effectively these interventions have been delivered during historically fluctuating approaches to the treatment of offenders. Drawing on 107 years’ history of formal community rehabilitation of offenders, the wider research project seeks to achieve these aims and objectives by collating, capturing and archiving the oral experiences, meanings and values of a sample of individuals involved with delivering probation service interventions in Nottinghamshire.

Currently we are interviewing employed and retired Nottinghamshire Probation Trust staff who have worked with offenders and victims across all ‘risk’ categories to capture their oral narratives. Once the material is gathered it will be archived by the professional archiving services at Nottingham Galleries of Justice. The resources will be accessible through the education programmes managed by the Galleries of Justice as well as being available to the general public, students and scholars. They will also inform further exhibitions at the Galleries. It is also envisaged that resources gathered through NPT will be used to promote the work of the new CRC’s among local communities, demonstrating its consistency of purpose and values working with offenders. Further dissemination will be made possible through collaboration between the Galleries of Justice and NPT with the production of a commemorative publication documenting the Trust’s work, a project spearheaded by the Probation Trust.

Dr Paul Hamilton—Lecturer in Criminology , Sociology



# Safeguarding the practitioner in adult and children's services

We all know social workers deliver a wide range of vital services, which ensure the health and well-being of some of society's most vulnerable members. Yet much government and media attention focuses on service-user safety especially in light of recent high profile cases such as the death of Baby Peter in 2007. However, far less attention is paid to social worker safety. Increasing physical and emotional violence by clients toward social workers in the majority of settings has been well documented by academics (Laird, 2013; Spencer & Munch, 2003) non-academic organisations (Community Care, August 21, 2013; Health and Safety Executive, October 9, 2013) and the media (STV, March 27, 2012). Indeed, '10–20 per cent of all social workers experience some form of physical violence, while 30–60 per cent of them are threatened. Around 60 per cent of all social workers and nearly 100 per cent of child protection workers are subjected to verbal abuse by a service user' (Community Care, August 21, 2013). Yet health and safety training of social workers remains in essence the responsibility of the employer initially during the placement training period. Although students in social work education and training are taught to be aware of potentially volatile situations and to identify dangers by situational cues, use organisational, social and personal coping mechanisms to remain as safe as possible, professional safety is also as much about personal confidence, intuition and individual risk management.

Stepping aside from a more conventional focus on how to improve the content and delivery of high quality training methods (e.g. HSE, 2013; Laird, 2013). We are taking a more grounded empirical approach to understand why health and safety content, including skills development should be embedded in social worker education, in particular the new 30 days skills training introduced in new curricula from 2013 (The College of Social Work). We are currently interviewing 6 groups of year 2 and 3 undergraduate social work students enrolled at Nottingham Trent University. Students are being asked a series of open-ended and closed questions on their personal experiences of health and safety

as lone workers. Students are also being asked to rate the effectiveness of the new 30 days skills training introduced in new curricula from 2013. We hope from the datasets that we can find answers to the following questions:

1. What perspectives do social workers have on lone worker health and safety at work?
2. Where are the current health and safety education divergences from lone worker health and safety at work?
3. What additional skills could be embedded in social worker education to improve lone worker health and safety?
4. How could health and safety can be further embedded in social work education?

Watch this space for future updates.

Tim Harrison—Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Social Work and Professional Practice

Catherine John-Bapiste—Senior Lecturer in Social Work, Social Work and Professional Practice

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# **Firebreak Project: a Study of an Inter-Generational 'Firebreak' to aid the Prevention of Domestic Abuse**

Chris Crowther-Dowey, Terry Gillespie and Kristan Hopkins-Burke, were commissioned in 2013 by Nottingham City Council and partner agencies to study the viability of an Inter-Generational 'Firebreak' in relation to the prevention of domestic abuse in an area of Nottingham that has a high rate of reported interpersonal violence.

As part of this research we bid for a SPUR student to observe and record interviews over the summer of 2013 with young people aged 8-18 years and some aged 19 and over, in order to ascertain a range of factors that influence their views about domestic abuse. The student, Charlene Kumarage, now in her third year of the BA Criminology course, has had her SPUR poster (produced for the SPUR award presentation) accepted for an exhibition at the Houses of Parliament on 25th February 2014, one of only two NTU students selected. Charlene will be presenting to MPs and other selected guests.



We subsequently submitted a research report (January 2014) to the City Council outlining proposed interventions following a whole community approach to break the cycle of acceptance of abusive behaviours across generations.

We presented a conference paper outlining the findings of the study for an Interdisciplinary Conference on Domestic Violence held at DeMontfort University on 16th December, 2013. We are also presenting a paper on the findings of our research for the forthcoming Alternative Futures conference at NTU (26<sup>th</sup> February). In addition, we are submitting an abstract for the British Society of Criminology's conference in July 2014.

Terry Gillespie—Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Sociology

# 'It's a metrosexual thing': A discourse analysis

As I've now completed my PhD PHEW!! I thought I'd share a summary with you...

## Introduction

Men consume, as never before, a plethora of grooming and image enhancing products with many men continuing to spend more than £10 per week throughout the recession. Predictably, the biggest consumers of such products are those aged 18-24. Only the over 55s begin to reduce general consumption, with hair colouring products bucking the trend (Mintel, 2012). This trend is not only confined to the more developed nations but also other less developed parts of the world too. Even with cultural differences, manufacturers of non-traditional image enhancing products have enjoyed some of the best market growth challenging market giants such as Gillette (Euromonitor, 2012). Whilst men's interest in grooming and image enhancement is of course nothing new, traditionally it's been practiced only mainly by sub-cultures, performers and the wealthy (Osgerby, 2003). But since the 1980s the extent of men's interest in grooming has increased exponentially. Various explanations have been put forward to account for this shift, crediting the gay movement (Simpson, 1994), feminists (Collier, 1992), late capitalist consumer societies (Featherstone, 1991) the style press and celebrityism (Gill, 2005).

**Findings**

This change indicates a blurring of traditional gender-discrete activities and so challenges 'hegemonic' and traditional masculinities (Connell, 1995). Changes in men's practices had not gone unnoticed with some suggesting this represents a 'new, narcissistic, media-saturated, self-conscious kind of masculinity' (Simpson, 1994). Scholars explained this phenomenon from sociological perspectives arguing that whilst it challenges traditional notions of gender and sexuality practices it also unhinged identity from gender and sexuality as it represents an asexual personal aesthetic lifestyle (Coad, 2008). However, what we didn't know was how self-identifying 'metrosexuals' defined, constructed and negotiated their identity. Examining 'metrosexuals' identity boundary work offered a valuable insight into the construction of contemporary masculinities in-situ.

## Research questions

The aims of this study were fourfold: 1) How do men self-identify with, disavow and negotiate metrosexuality? 2) How is 'metrosexuality' defined as a category and what are the essential characteristics and practices of membership? 3) How is 'metrosexuality' presented in reference to other gender and sexual identities? 4) To what extent does 'metrosexuality' challenge more conventional forms of masculinity or constitute a new masculine identity?

## Methodology

The Internet is associated with freedom of identity and so newly forming and contentious identities are arguably more easily claimed online (Coyle & MacWhannell 2002). Therefore, various electronic talk in online spaces were analysed with discursive psychological

and membership categorisation analysis

Membership categorisation analysis sense knowledge contained in identity and how these mundane taken-

appropriate behaviour and character This method showed the negotiation of change in light of challenges to conventional forms of masculinity (Connell, 1995; Potter, 1992) on the other hand, fo-

descriptions and references from a course, the selection, construction and by chance; they are designed specific ties and social relations, make particular descriptions and references from a course, the selection, construction and by chance; they are designed specific ties and social relations, make particular

cific interests. One interest men had 2003), was maintaining 'manliness' accounted for non-normative activities and managed for 'stake' (i.e.

with self-presentation practices is wealth (Osgerby, 2003). But since the 1980s the extent of men's interest in grooming has increased exponentially. Various explanations have been put forward to account for this shift, crediting the gay movement (Simpson, 1994), feminists (Collier, 1992), late capitalist consumer societies (Featherstone, 1991) the style press and celebrityism (Gill, 2005).

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# Analytical examination of masculinities

analytical (Sacks, 1992) approaches. ‘orthodox’ notions of masculinities in favour of masculinities that incorporate and/or tolerate more variance in gender and sexuality. But of course, caution is advised as the data demonstrate that displays of ‘metrosexuality’ are still bound up with more traditional notions of masculinity and how men ‘should’ or ‘need’ to behave.

of category parameters and social

conventional gender-appropriate behav-  
ioural obligations to more hegemonic

). Discursive psychology (Edwards &

cused on the selection of adequate

n infinite number of possibilities. Of

and management of these were not

ically to construct and manage identi-

sicular inferences, and promote spe-

d, in a culture where men’s concern

considered antithetical (Edwards,

whilst grooming. Therefore, when

ctivities, their talk was selected, con-

. their personal interest).

actices continues to be a growth in-  
(2012). Yet even with the increasing

s interest in such practices still re-  
and a culturally ‘delicate’ topic. The

frontier of gender discrete activities

aled a potential change in masculini-

t traditional notions of discrete gen-

being policed with transgressors risk-

and ‘homosexual’ – terms of abuse.

ity’ showed that the risk of recatego-

y challenged lead some men to re-

s in more dominant or ‘hegemonic’

progression, disinterest and sporting

conventional masculinities for not em-

‘herefore, ‘metrosexuality’ seems to

linity reworked to incorporate con-

lytical mileage in the concept of heg-  
as ideals presented in the media for

n relation to these. However, given

ore dominate notions of masculinity

and activities are still relatively fluid

s (1999) discursive critique question-

o man actually embodies. Indeed,

in line with Anderson’s (2005, 2008)

hen demonstrate rejection of more

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# Dates for the Diary

July 2013						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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August 2013						
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September 2013						
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29	30					

October 2013						
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27	28	29	30	31		

November 2013						
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December 2013						
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January 2014						
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February 2014						
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March 2014						
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April 2014						
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May 2014						
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June 2014						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Next Issue: May 2014**

If you wish to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter, then please contact Matthew Hall: matthew.hall@ntu.ac.uk



And you thought it was just fruit.