

**Cell  
mates**

Proteins, pathogens  
and planets in Birkbeck  
Science Week

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Speaking as a relative newcomer to Birkbeck, it is hard not to be impressed by the quality and breadth of research the College carries out. Having joined the global elite universities by coming 152nd in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, Birkbeck is also one of five shortlisted for the magazine's University of the Year award.

Professor Bonnie Ann Wallace and Dr Penelope Gardner-Chloros have each won research grants of more than £1m, for projects relating to crystallography and sociolinguistics respectively (pages 1 and 2), while on page 18, Dr Adrian Wisnicki and Dr Debbie Harrison reveal new secrets of David Livingstone's last trip to Africa. Staying on that continent, Dr Charlie Bristow explains how the dustiest place on Earth is responsible for keeping the Amazon rainforest alive (page 20).

Changes in the political landscape emerge as a theme in this issue – Dr Jason Edwards suggests how Labour can fight their way back from opposition (page 26), while Professor Andrew Jones argues that policymakers don't pay enough attention to the geographical unevenness of the UK economy (page 24). There are changes to report at Birkbeck too: on page 10 Lord Marshall recounts his seven years as Chair of Governors, and we welcome his successor, Harvey McGrath.

I would like to thank all the academics and alumni who have contributed to this issue, and look forward to reporting on how the College has fared in the University of the Year award in the next issue.

Neil Aitken, Editor

# £1.2m for pioneering technology

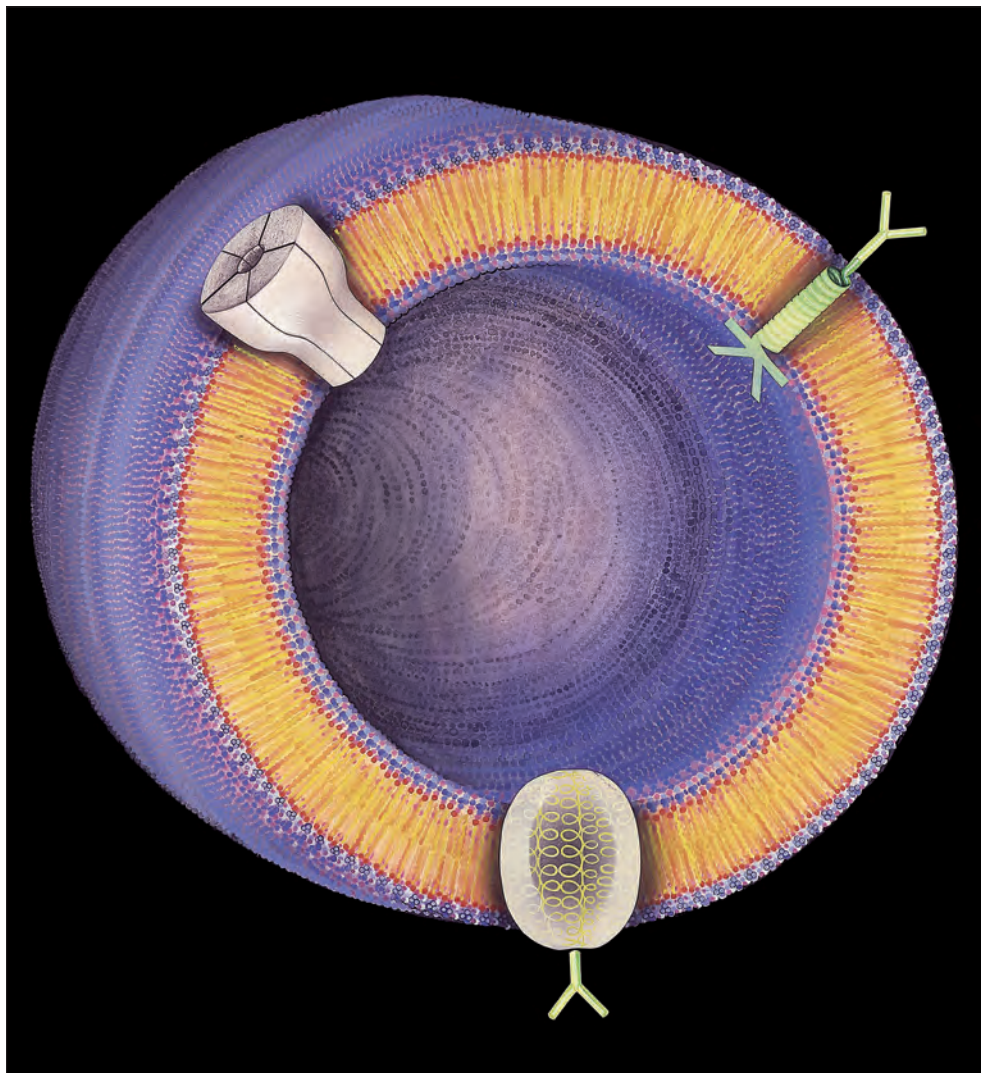
## Grant funds research into pharmaceutical testing

A new technological platform for testing drugs is being developed by Professor Bonnie Ann Wallace in the Crystallography department, together with colleagues at the University of Southampton, following the award of £1.2 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

The Bilayer Platform project will simplify the process of testing pharmaceuticals that target ion channels, which play a pivotal role in a wide variety of physiological processes and diseases, including chronic pain, epilepsy and certain types of heart disease. About 60% of drugs work on membrane proteins (of which ion channels are a subclass) and their effectiveness is gauged by measuring activity in the ion channel as a result of administering the drug. The ultimate aim of such studies is to identify highly effective drugs that can be targeted to specific tissues, hence limiting side effects.

Currently, pharmaceutical companies use electrodes to test entire cells, which can be expensive and involves testing a complex mixture of many channels on a cell-by-cell basis. The new technology uses artificial bilayer lipid membranes to carry out the tests, meaning there is only one type of channel and no living cells – reducing the expense of testing several types of channels at once.

Professor Wallace, who leads an internationally-recognised research programme on ion channel structure and function, is heading up the Birkbeck team as part of the joint effort to examine sodium channels and search for both new pharmaceutical drugs and ones that are more specifically targeted to certain tissues. The University of Southampton team, headed by Professor Hywel Morgan and Dr Maurits de Planque, is building the novel platform for parallel on-chip electrophysiology required to test



Above: Artwork of a section through a cell plasma membrane and three types of ion channel (Science Photo Library)

these samples, using the clean room technology available at their institution.

The project will take just over three years and benefit public and private sector industries, as well as driving new research for the treatment of chronic pain, epilepsy, and certain types of heart disease. The new technology platform and the biological results will have many applications for drug discovery and testing long after the research period ends.

Bonnie Ann Wallace is Professor of Molecular Biophysics in Birkbeck's Department of Biological Sciences, and a member of the Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology. She will give a lecture entitled *Proteins, DNA and the Components of Life* on Tuesday 26 October as part of Birkbeck Science Week (see page 5).

To find out about studying Crystallography, visit [www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.cryst.bbk.ac.uk)

# Hyde and sleep

## Sleeping habits explored at Serpentine event

When conflict arises between getting enough sleep and achieving our academic goals it is some consolation to think that Einstein needed 10 hours a night; however the science of sleep is still shrouded in mystery.

The links between sleep, creativity and insomnia were explored at a sleepover event at London's Serpentine Gallery on 30 July with Dr Angelica Ronald, from the Department of Psychological Sciences, lecturing on sleep and sleep debt. She explains: "As a Birkbeck lecturer I am accustomed to late night teaching, but this was the first time I had to give a lecture at 3.45am."

The event included artistic performances, videos of animals sleeping, 'stimulant trifle' served by toga-wearing artists, soporific music and discussions about the relationship between psychoanalysis and dreams. Dr Ronald used her lecture to underline how little we

currently know about sleep: "It appears sleep is designed to help the brain recover and is likely to be evolutionarily advantageous. Sleep is universally important: no-one has ever been identified who doesn't sleep and it's impossible to deprive yourself of sleep beyond a certain limit – you simply drop off."

"There is ongoing debate about how much we need – some researchers say as little as six hours a night will do, but the average for healthy adults is just over seven. Differences in the amount of sleep individuals need are also interesting: the participants' average sleep length ranged from four to 12 hours per night – that is a big difference in the number of waking hours we have per day."

Dr Angelica Ronald lectures on the BSc Psychology programme. To find out about studying psychology, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/psyc](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/psyc)

## Sociolinguistics win £1m grant

A Birkbeck-led research project has been awarded almost £1million to compare developments in contemporary London English with those occurring in Parisian French. Dr Penelope Gardner-Chloros, from the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication is leading the four year project, with a team from Birkbeck, Queen Mary College and the University of Paris X-Nanterre. The team will look at how language changes in large metropolises, and is the first large-scale comparison of two significant Western European settings from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Professor Gardner-Chloros said: "The sources of change are found in everyday spoken language, especially the vernacular used by young urban speakers. We'll look at how these affect the evolution of both languages and address wider questions to do with migration and integration".

The project will pay particular attention to the influence on the main languages of varieties spoken by major immigrant communities, including Afro-Caribbeans in the UK and French Caribbeans and Maghrebans in France. The project relies on recordings of spontaneous speech, making comparisons across generations in order to track changes. The London recordings are already available from two previous Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) projects on London English. Comparable recordings are being collected in Paris. Both will then be coded and comparisons will be made.

To study Applied Linguistics and Communication, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/linguistics](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/linguistics)

Below: Volunteers take part in the event, in London's Hyde Park (Serpentine Gallery)



# Pears Institute

## Director gives inaugural lecture

This autumn sees the launch of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck, in Bloomsbury. Funded by a £1.5million donation from the Pears Foundation, the Institute will work in partnership with the world-renowned Wiener Library, which will relocate from its current home to adjoin the Institute in Russell Square.

The opening will be marked by the inaugural lecture from David Feldman of the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, who has been appointed Professor and first Director of the Institute. His lecture, *Equality, Race and the Jewish Problem*, will be delivered on Wednesday 10 November.

Commenting on the founding of the Institute, Professor Feldman said: "Antisemitism is not only a hugely important subject in its own right but also a particular instance of a broader phenomenon. The question of whether and how to integrate or segregate religious, migrant and ethnic communities has been an abiding issue from the ancient world to the present day. By placing antisemitism in this broad context the Pears Institute will promote historical understanding and contribute to contemporary discussion and policy on racism in societies which are becoming more not less diverse."

Professor David Latchman CBE, the Master of Birkbeck, said: "We are delighted that the Pears Foundation donation enables us to establish the Institute and also that we will be able to provide a home for the Wiener Library. Birkbeck commands an unparalleled combination of expertise in the field of antisemitism and intolerance in a wide range of disciplines, from political sciences to psychosocial studies and from history to law. It is this singular mix that will provide the Institute's foundation for research, teaching and its contribution to public policy and



Above:  
Professor David Feldman  
(Birkbeck)

debate. Birkbeck's expertise, particularly within the History department, as well as the partnership with the Wiener Library, means that the Institute will bring a historical dimension to the subject that doesn't exist anywhere else."

The work of the Institute will fulfil three key aims: to offer an unaffiliated source of public policy advice; to carry out and disseminate high quality research; and to provide a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including postgraduate research programmes. The Institute will draw together work carried out in existing Schools and Centres within Birkbeck, it will link with other agencies and implement its own programmes of studies, teaching and public policy advice.

Professor Feldman studied at Cambridge University before joining

Birkbeck in 1993 as a history lecturer; he became a Reader in 2000.

The Wiener Library is the world's oldest institution for the study of antisemitism and the crimes of Nazi Germany, the history of German and Central European Jewry, the Holocaust and its aftermath. It is a major archive comprising not only 60,000 books and 2,000 periodical titles but also 1.5 million pages of archival material. The Wiener Library provides a unique opportunity for Birkbeck academics and students, as well as others, to use its vast resources for research, teaching and outreach activities in the area of antisemitism, religious and racial intolerance.

*Equality, Race and the Jewish Problem*, 5–6pm, Wednesday 10 November. To reserve a place email [events@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:events@bbk.ac.uk)

## Rights here, rights now

### PhD students present work at International AIDS Conference



Students from Birkbeck's School of Law presented research at the International AIDS Conference, held in Vienna in July, which was attended by over 25,000 participants, including Bill Clinton, Bill Gates and Annie Lennox.

The conference is the world's largest international meeting for scientists, health professionals, activists and community-based organisations with an interest in HIV/AIDS. Birkbeck PhD students Lucy Stackpool-Moore, Robert James and LLB graduate Jonathan Thorpe were chosen to present their work following a rigorous pre-conference peer review process.

The conference's *Rights here, Rights now* theme placed a strong emphasis on the need for a rights-based approach to HIV prevention efforts. Robert James presented his research on successful legal approaches to reduce the number of people with HIV facing unwarranted prosecutions for exposure and transmission offences, comparing prosecutions in

four European countries to show how these laws have been used disproportionately against people with HIV. Lucy Stackpool-Moore chaired and presented sessions relating to stigma, human rights and the criminalisation of HIV transmission and exposure, and Jonathan Thorpe contributed to a presentation on health-related human rights issues for African migrants.

Dr Matthew Weait, Assistant Dean, School of Law, and Reader in Socio-Legal Studies at Birkbeck, acted as rapporteur on human rights sessions for the Global Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (GNP+). Commenting on the conference, Dr Weait said: "The School of Law's contribution to the conference was important and significant, and an excellent demonstration of our commitment to critical and policy-relevant research in law and human rights".

To find out more about the School of Law, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/law](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/law)

## New partnerships for Arts programmes

Exciting partnerships with the Globe Theatre and RADA have been announced by the School of Arts to deliver two new Masters qualifications, starting in 2010–2011. Professor Hilary Fraser, Executive Dean of the School of Arts, commented: "The Globe Theatre is the most popular and avant-garde theatre in London and together we can offer an MA that acknowledges where Shakespeare matters most – on the present-day stage."

"MA Text and Performance students will have a unique opportunity to access the expertise of RADA's tutors in voice, movement, playwriting and directing, while also being able to develop their skills in performance analysis with Birkbeck's theatre studies staff. The range of nationalities and theatre-making experience among students starting the MA in October will make the degree fascinating to teach and study," concluded Professor Fraser.

For information on studying Performing Arts, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/eh](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eh)



# Science Week 2010

## From the microscopic to the astronomical

Birkbeck is set to host its first Science Week, which will run from Monday 25 October until Friday 29 October. Events will centre on the JD Bernal Lecture, delivered by Nobel Prize winning chemist Professor Sir Harry Kroto, who will consider the place of science in 21st century society.

### MONDAY 25 OCTOBER

**Professor Helen Saibil** from Crystallography, Department of Biological Sciences, takes a look at *The molecular arms race between man and pathogen*, explaining how powerful electron microscopes are helping us understand the role played by 'hole punching' toxic proteins in bacterial attack and how they are adapted by the body for immune defence.

Venue: Birkbeck, Malet Street, Room 541, 4pm

### TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER

*Proteins, DNA and the Components of Life* – a lecture by **Professor Bonnie Ann Wallace** from Crystallography, Department of Biological Sciences.

Venue: Birkbeck, Malet Street, Room 624, 3pm

### WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER

Describing how aspects of the history of life on earth can inform searches for life elsewhere, **Dr Ian Crawford**, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, reviews the prospects for life in our solar system and beyond in a lecture entitled *The new science of astrobiology and the search for life in the universe*.

Venue: Birkbeck, Malet Street, Room 351, 3pm

*Earthquake Recurrence: Latest results from L'Aquila earthquake*  
**Dr Gerald Roberts**, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, will describe the effects of the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake and how the latest technology can be used to

constrain future earthquake occurrence.

Venue: Birkbeck, 43 Gordon Square, Room 324, 6pm.

### Dr Gwen Nneji

explores the *Seven Wonders of Science*

Venue: Stratford, east London TBA (check website), 6pm

### THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER

*JD Bernal Lecture: Science and Society in the 21st Century*  
Taking his lead from great thinkers including Hume and Russell, scientists from Haldane to Feynman and writers from Whitman to Pinter, Nobel Prize winning chemist **Professor Sir Harry Kroto** explains why only a doubt-based philosophy leaves the road open for all advances in human endeavour.

Arguing that Science is the only philosophical construct that man has developed to determine what is, might, and/or can be true, Professor Kroto considers the threat posed to science and society by irrational mystical, anti-libertarian and antidemocratic forces around the world.

Venue: Birkbeck, Malet Street, Room B34, 4–6pm

### FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER

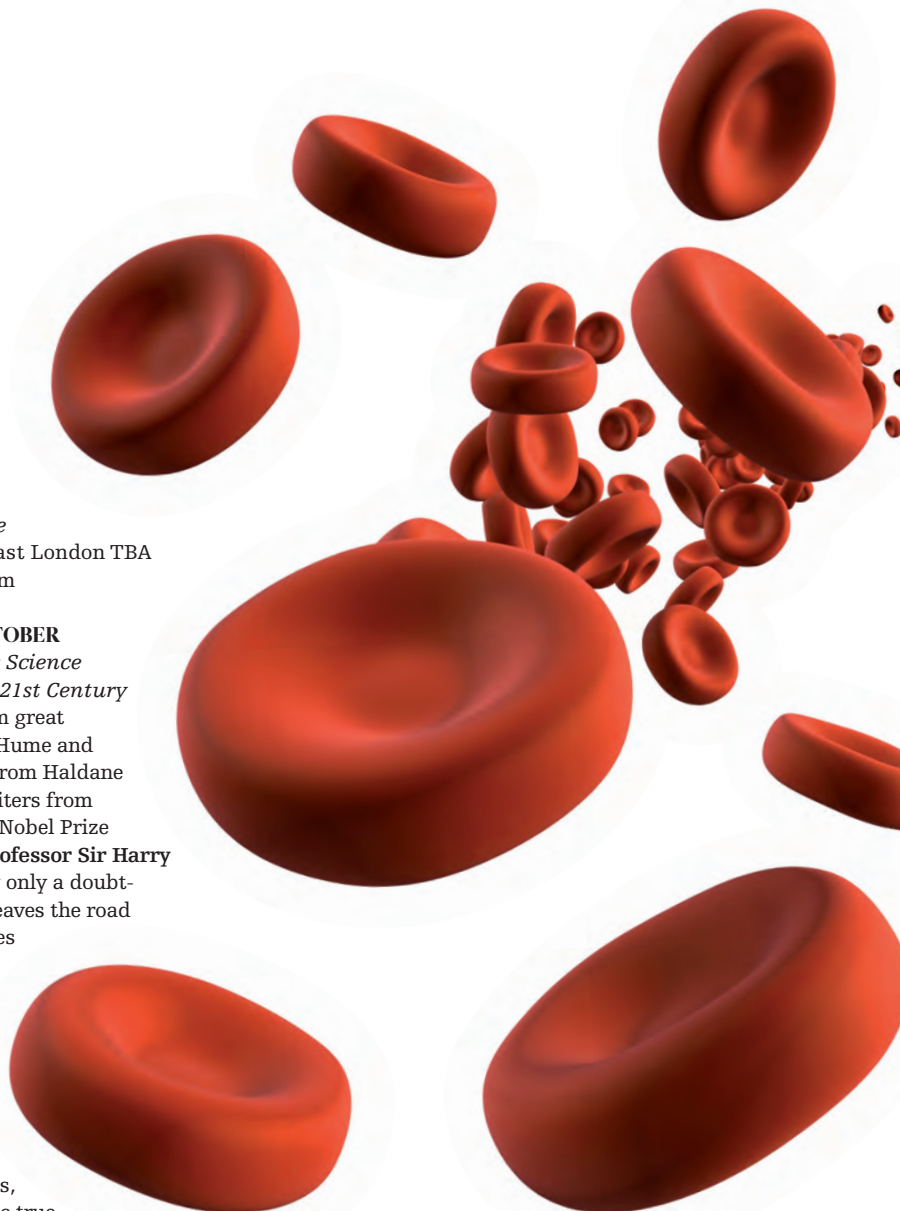
*New advances in understanding what causes autism*

**Dr Angelica Ronald**, Department of Psychological Sciences, proposes that it is time to give up on a single explanation for autism by recognising that multiple causes, including genetic mutations, birth complications and environmental causes are involved.

Venue: Birkbeck, Malet Street, Room 153, 3pm

**Dr Emma Meaburn**, Department of Psychological Sciences, discusses *The molecular biology of human behaviour*, examining recent findings from the field of human genetics. Venue: Birkbeck, Malet Street, Room 153, 6pm

Each lecture is approximately one hour long (unless specified). For full details visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/science](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/science), or email [scienceweek@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:scienceweek@bbk.ac.uk)



# Going mobile

## The rise of the smartphone

Apple's iPhone has consistently grabbed headlines since its introduction in 2007 thanks to its attractive design and enthusiastic adoption by high-end users, but Google's Android operating system has emerged as a firm rival in the growing market for smartphones.

Moore's Law states that the amount of computer hardware that can be manufactured for a fixed (low) price roughly doubles every two years. Borne out by historical trends, it implies that the capabilities of computing devices are increasing at an exponential rate, allowing dramatic improvements in the number and variety of features offered by technology. Today we live in an era where mobile computing is reaching maturity; the prime example being the increasing power of smartphones and their rising popularity.

Almost 62 million smartphones were sold globally in the second quarter of 2010 – an increase of 50% year-on-year. Despite their fame, Apple devices were only the fourth most popular in the smartphone category and their sales have been overtaken by mobiles using the Android operating system for the first time.

Although undoubtedly attractive to users, there are a number of reasons why the iPhone can be awkward for software developers to work on. Application development is only possible on the Mac operating system (iOS) and programming is in the non-standard 'Objective-C' language, which has limited appeal outside Apple. Applications are only made available to users after they have been vetted by Apple, which can mean applications are rejected without adequate justification. These choices do improve security (there are no known viruses for the iPhone), but many believe they go too far and restrict the iPhone's potential.

Apple's new rival, Android, is based on the open-source Linux operating system and was developed specifically to bring search and other internet applications to mobile phones. Android is offered as a software-only platform, enabling a range of different suppliers (including Motorola, HTC and Google) to design and manufacture Android phones; the Apple and Blackberry operating systems, on the other hand, are tied to a single handset manufacturer. In terms of technology, Android matches the iPhone in a number of areas (multi-touch interaction; an 'apps' marketplace for users to download new software), but it also led the way in offering a variety of innovative features that have only recently become available on other platforms. One example is the 'augmented reality' browser Layar. It works by annotating video captured by the phone's camera with information harvested on the internet; point your camera at the British Library (or, in theory, any other landmark) and you will get a relevant Wikipedia article, web link or other related material in real time.

Above: Augmented reality applications use a phone's camera, compass, and GPS capabilities to display reviews of businesses (Getty Images)



Thanks to a donation from Google, MSC Advanced Computing students at Birkbeck now

have access to a number of *Android Developer Phone 1* kits, necessary to develop software for Android. The kits are used for part of the Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing module to teach students how to obtain and use GPS location information, how to communicate over the mobile internet and how to design user interfaces.

Current student projects include working with geo-located user generated media (building on previous work carried out in the department's Urban Tapestries project), and monitoring biodiversity by capturing geo-located samples of bats' ultrasound communication (an extension of previous work on Snout and the Experience Recorder projects).

Dr George Roussos is a Reader in Pervasive Computing in the Department of Computer Science and Informatics. For details about studying an MSc in Advanced Computing, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective)



## History today

### Exciting finds at Syon Park dig

More than 1,000 fragments of medieval stained glass have been recovered this summer, as part of the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology's seventh season of training and research excavations in the grounds of Syon House in Brentford, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Northumberland.

The annual dig takes place between Syon House and the river Thames – home to the only monastery of the Bridgettine order (emanating from the order of St Bridget at Vadstena in Sweden) to be founded in England during the medieval period.

The glass fragments are a rare and important discovery which will reveal new information on the art and iconography of the medieval abbey. Many of the fragments are no larger than 50mm, and some have painted decoration, including lettering, the heads of angels or saints or part of a crucifixion scene. The material awaits investigation off-site. Other discoveries this year include more of the range of medieval buildings to the north of the abbey church; the excavation suggests the northern range may be larger than its counterpart in the Swedish mother house. Additionally,



a course on archaeological geophysics revealed the buried outline of what may be two sixteenth-century courts, which have parallels with the plans of other great Tudor mansions and palaces.

More than 100 Birkbeck students took part in this summer's successful excavation, supervised by

professional archaeologists who provided on-site teaching. The project takes place with the permission of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland and the helpful assistance of Syon House and Park staff.

Above: A fragment of painted glass from the dig (Josephine Warren)

To find out about studying archaeology at Birkbeck, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/history](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history)

## Fees discount for union members

Up to 2.5 million Union members in the Southern and Eastern region are now entitled to a 10% discount on their fees across all levels of study, thanks to a new agreement between Birkbeck and Unionlearn, the trade union education body in the Southern and Eastern TUC (SERTUC).

After working with the unions for the past three years, the Outreach and Widening Participation team and Birkbeck senior management brokered an agreement to offer a discount to union members who want to study for a higher level

qualification than those which they already hold.

Commenting on the news, Annette McCone, Outreach and Widening Participation Officer said: "Claire Callender's recent *Future Track* report makes it clear that, all too often, employees most in need of financial support from their employers are the ones who receive least. We hope this discount will act as an incentive for union members to find out more about studying at Birkbeck. We anticipate that many union members will be eligible for generous financial

support from the government and other sources, but for those who aren't, this scheme will help make part-time study that bit more affordable".

The discount is available for union members who are not entitled to other financial support; they need to provide a letter at the time of enrolment from their Union Learning Representative (ULR) or Full-Time Officer.

For more information go to [www.bbk.ac.uk/unions](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/unions)

## David S Latchman CBE

# Birkbeck is well placed to meet the challenges of a very difficult funding environment



As I write this article, it is clear that turbulent times lie ahead for Higher Education. Universities face major reductions in public funding as the Coalition Government attempts to deal with public spending. Unlike the withdrawal of funding for students studying for equivalent or lower qualifications (ELO), these cuts will not affect Birkbeck disproportionately but, nonetheless, we will be affected along with the rest of the sector.

Paradoxically, however, the action taken in response to the ELO funding withdrawal will assist the College in meeting this latest challenge. The re-organisation of the College into five Schools and the mainstreaming of the Faculty of Lifelong Learning into these Schools has provided us with a streamlined structure which operates more efficiently. Moreover, the annual budget setting and planning cycle for each School, together with their annual portfolio review of all courses, provides us with the

Right:  
Graduates after  
a presentation  
ceremony  
Below: Birkbeck's  
main building



mechanism to respond to changes in public funding, etc.

Clearly, one mechanism for responding to decreased public funding for teaching particular subject areas is to increase fees. In this regard, the support available to less well off students is of vital importance. This critical topic is the subject of an enquiry led by Lord Browne which was set up by the previous Government and supported by all parties. Most importantly, we were successful in having part-time fees and student support included in this review.

As reported in my previous column, in response to the panel's call for evidence on problems with the current system, we submitted a joint document with the Open University, focussing on part-time issues. In its initial report, the panel stated: "There was also a clear consensus that the student finance system for part-time students is not sufficient, especially when compared to the support provided for full-time students".

We subsequently submitted further joint evidence with the OU in response to the panel's second call requesting proposals for changing the current system. I was then invited to give oral evidence to the panel focussing on our proposals.

We now await with considerable interest Lord Browne's final report and the Government response to it. Interestingly, the original Coalition agreement contains a commitment to respond to Lord Browne's proposals together, with an opt out clause allowing Liberal Democrats to abstain in any vote on specific fee proposals.

Most importantly however, as a separate bullet point, the Coalition agreement also contains the commitment 'to review support for part-time students in terms of loans and fees'. This is particularly valuable since it separates the issue of part-time students from the overall Government response to Lord Browne's report which is likely to be politically controversial.

We are, therefore, optimistic that the Coalition Government will fulfil the commitments made in opposition and significantly improve support for part-time students. Evidently however, it is of importance at this time that we continue to demonstrate that the teaching we offer our students is of the highest quality.

In 2010, Birkbeck was audited by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in a process known as institutional audit. This is a highly rigorous process which has resulted in several other London institutions recently receiving a verdict of only limited confidence. I was particularly delighted, therefore, that the College obtained the highest

## “We are optimistic that the Government will fulfil commitments made in opposition and significantly improve support for part-time students”

possible rating, with the QAA reporting full confidence in the College in both the categories assessed, namely the soundness of the College's current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards, and the soundness of the College's current and likely future management of the quality of the learning opportunities available to students. This is a considerable accolade for the College and I congratulate all members of staff involved, particularly Professor Sue Jackson, Pro-Vice-Master for Learning and Teaching, and Dean Pateman, Academic Registrar, who together led the College's team.

It was also gratifying that the QAA made reference to several areas of good practice which they identified in the College. Most interestingly, two of these relate specifically to the changes which we introduced in the aftermath of the ELQ funding withdrawal. The QAA praised 'the integrated advice, support and guidance' which is provided by the My Birkbeck Student Centre. Moreover, they also praised 'the integration of the former Faculty of Lifelong Learning into the restructured Schools and the attendant benefits to progression, pedagogy and curricula across the College'.

As well as being of vital importance in itself, this favourable verdict on our teaching now allows us to resume our application to the QAA for independent degree awarding powers. The initial QAA group which visited us to assess this pronounced itself satisfied with our then procedures, but indicated that it wished to return for a 'light touch' audit subsequent to our new structures being introduced and successfully tested via the institutional audit. We will, therefore, now invite the QAA to return to complete its assessment. As indicated previously, it remains the College's intention not to use these degree-awarding powers but to continue to award the much valued University of London degree. However, it is important for us to have these powers in reserve as insurance against any future structural changes in the University of London.

The success of the College in the past year has been recognised by our being short listed for the University of the Year award by the *Times Higher Education (THE)* magazine with the final award to be announced on 25 November. This builds on our earlier successes in winning *THE* Awards for the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community, the Widening Participation Initiative of the Year and Marketing and Communications Team of the Year.

Moreover, this year for the first time Birkbeck appears in



the *THE* top 200 universities in the world – the global elite. We were rated 152nd in the world above, for example, several large Russell Group universities such as Leeds, Liverpool and Nottingham. As the Editor of the *THE*, Ann Mroz, said: "The top 200 universities in the world represent only a tiny fraction of world higher education and any institution that makes it into this table is truly world class". Our success is especially significant given the major restructuring changes we have gone through recently and the ongoing under-resourcing of our part-time teaching.

Overall therefore, I believe that the College is well placed to meet the challenges of a very difficult funding environment. We continue to deliver high quality, flexible learning in an environment of research excellence and there are many signs that this will finally be recognised in terms of the support available to our students.

# New Chair of Governors

## Harvey McGrath elected to succeed Lord Marshall



### Harvey McGrath, new Chair of Governors

Harvey McGrath, Chairman of the London Development Agency and Vice Chairman of the Mayor of London's Skills and Employment Board, was elected as Birkbeck's new Chair of Governors in July. He succeeds Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, who has held the post since November 2003.

The Master of Birkbeck, Professor David Latchman CBE, said: "Harvey's extensive business experience, combined with his interest in widening participation in education and his passion for London, will be of immense value to Birkbeck. He has supported the College's mission over a number of years and I look forward to working with him more closely. I must also thank Lord Marshall for his wise counsel and distinguished service to the College over almost seven years."

Gaining an MA in Geography from St Catherine's College, Cambridge, Harvey McGrath subsequently went on to enjoy a long and distinguished career

in the international financial services industry in both New York and London; he became Chief Executive of Man Group, the London-based FTSE100 fund manager in 1990, and then Chairman from 2000–2007.

Harvey McGrath is now Chair of Prudential and has served as Chairman of London First, the capital's influential business campaign group. Other former roles include a directorship of Gateway to London, the inward investment agency for the Thames Gateway and Chairman of the East London Business Alliance, a partnership of substantial businesses engaged in the social and economic regeneration of east London.

Commenting on his appointment Harvey McGrath said: "I am very excited by this opportunity to make a contribution to Birkbeck's unique position in part-time, higher education, at such a critical time in the College's history."

In addition to his business interests Harvey McGrath is also a trustee of a number of charities including New Philanthropy Capital, a research based charity which gives advice and guidance to donors and charities; the Royal Anniversary Trust which operates the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education; Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB), which protects the rights and welfare of children and vulnerable adults across borders; icould, an online careers resource; and the Prince's Teaching Institute, which promotes subject based professional development for teachers.



### Retrospective by Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge

It seemed a particularly auspicious time when I was honoured to be appointed Chair of Governors in November, 2003. Birkbeck's research was receiving world-class acclaim; student recruitment was robust; HRH The Princess Royal was about to open the £18.5 million flagship development at Malet Street; and Birkbeck students were highly-acclaimed *University Challenge* champions.

It was also almost exactly 180 years since George Birkbeck had gathered supporters together in a London tavern to create his education-for-all prototype, the Mechanics' Institute.

As a dedicated Londoner and one who had long promoted the value of adult, part-time higher education in business and industry, the opportunity to inherit this rich legacy and help lead Birkbeck forward was an exciting prospect. So it turned out that my seven-year term of service saw Birkbeck maintain its record of purposeful growth in terms of scope, innovation,

stature and achievement.

It was satisfying to help strengthen ties between London's academic and business communities. The successful lecture series organised jointly by Birkbeck and London First served to emphasise our shared commitment to the further social and economic development of London. Great satisfaction has come from participating in successful fund-raising activities; in achieving closer working relationships with Government; and the progressive re-development of Birkbeck's built environment alongside its far-sighted academic transformation. Especially significant was the opening of the Wolfson Institute for Brain Function and Development in Birkbeck's new Henry Wellcome Building.

Undoubtedly, the definitive achievement was winning the green light for our long-proposed new Birkbeck campus in east London. The already-established temporary facilities in Stratford mark the first, important step on a new, momentous journey of expansion.

My time with Birkbeck has been utterly fulfilling and truly inspiring. I am indebted to the Master, Professor David Latchman, his team of academic and professional colleagues, and to my fellow governors. Their unstinting support and wise guidance has been invaluable. At the same time, abiding inspiration has come from Birkbeck's students. Their collective aspiration to academic excellence is exemplary.

I step down secure in the knowledge that my successor, Harvey McGrath, will bring exceptional qualities of leadership to Birkbeck. I wish him and the College well.

## £1m Stratford donation Garfield Weston Foundation pledge for new building



Birkbeck and the University of East London (UEL) are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on 15 November, in the latest development towards a shared education building which will be operational in 2013.

The project was given a funding boost in June, with a £1m donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support the new education facility. This donation comes on top of the substantial grant already received from the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. Aided by the HEFCE matched funding scheme, which tops up philanthropic

donations by 50% from government funds, the College aims to raise £3m for the building from donors. The Garfield Weston donation is the culmination of a number of years of close involvement by the College with the Foundation.

Building work will begin on the site, which is situated in the cultural quarter of Stratford adjacent to the Theatre Royal and the Picturehouse, in May 2011. The new education building (as yet unnamed) is a joint venture between Birkbeck and UEL, with the participation of Newham Sixth Form College. It will be a high quality building providing flexible

teaching space for over 3,400 students. Open throughout the day and evening, the building will comprise 8,400m<sup>2</sup> arranged over five floors and will house a student advice centre, a bookshop, a café and a learning resource centre.

UEL's Institute of the Performing Arts will be based there and Birkbeck will share a rehearsal space with the Theatre Royal Stratford, with which the College has close connections.

Above: Architects' model of the atrium in the new building (MAKE Architects)

For information on studying in Stratford, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/stratford](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/stratford)

# Research roundup

## A selection of research news, awards and collaborations

### Awards

**Claire Callender**, Professor of Higher Education Policy in the Department of Social Policy and Education, has been elected a Fellow of the Society for Research into Higher Education. The honour was given in recognition of her considerable contribution to the field of higher education research and will be presented in Newport during the Society's 2010 Annual Conference in December.

Professor Callender's research made headlines recently when her co-authored report, *Future*

*Track*, described funding for part-time students as 'one of the greatest and most glossed-over injustices in the English system'.

Congratulations are also due to **Dr Victoria Southgate** from the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development (the Babylab). She has won the 2010 Margaret Donaldson Early Career Prize, awarded by the British Psychological Society, which aims to promote researchers whose work has made an outstanding contribution in the field of developmental psychology. Dr Southgate's research focuses on early social

cognition. Factors taken into account in deciding the winner include the standard of theory development shown, as well as originality and innovation in methodology. Dr Southgate delivered a keynote address at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society's developmental section.

Commenting on the award, Dr. Southgate said: "I hope that it draws further attention to the high quality, cutting edge research carried out here."

Also at the Babylab, PhD student **Rachel Wu** has won the Society for Reproductive and Infant Psychology Annual Graduate Student Prize. The Society for Reproductive and Infant Psychology is a multi-disciplinary organisation concerned with the psychological, behavioural, medical and social aspects of all areas of reproduction, birth and infancy.

**Dr Naoko Shimazu** (Department of History, Classics and Archaeology), has been awarded a BARDA (British Academy Research Development Awards) grant of £94,000 to study *Diplomacy as Theatre: The Bandung Conference of 1955 and the Rise of Asia in the Twentieth Century*. The competition was enormous – 330 applications were submitted, and the success rate was under 15%. Dr Shimazu's most recent publication is *Japanese Society at War: Death, Memory and the Russo-Japanese War* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), a social and cultural history of modern Japan, focusing on state-society relations during the war.

**Li Wei**, Professor of Applied Linguistics, Director of the Birkbeck Graduate Research

School and Assistant Dean of the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy has been made Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences. He joins an elite group of Birkbeck staff (Avtar Brah, Diana Coole, Helen Lawton-Smith, Joni Lovenduski and Jonathan Smith) to be recognised nationally as distinguished social scientists.

The Academy has announced 31 new Academicians; the award is for making a significant contribution to the social sciences and is by nomination and peer group review.

**Sitanta Ni Mathghamhna**, a second year LLB (law) student, has won joint first prize in an essay competition organised by the UK Centre for Legal Education, with her essay entitled: *How might a legal education enable students to contribute to the improvement of society?*

Also in the School of Law, lecturer **Dr Jose Bellido** has been awarded the 6th Annual Fundación Arte y Derecho Prize for his study on *Evidence and Artistic Copyright*. A panel of 11 jurists and art professionals selected by the Fundación unanimously decided Jose's entry was the best project in the field of art and law. The prize is worth €6000 and involves the publication of the book he has co-authored with Professors Gómez, from the University of Almería, and Arroyo, from UNED (Spain).

The prestigious Colby Prize has been jointly won by **Laurel Brake**, Professor Emerita of

Clockright from top left: Professor Clare Callender, Dr Naoko Shimazu, Professor Laurel Brake and Dr Victoria Southgate  
Right: Professor Ron Smith's book





Literature and Print Culture in the School of Arts and Marysa Demoor, University of Ghent, for their *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism* in paper and online, published by the British Library, Academia, and ProQuest. This prize, for the Best Scholarly Book in the Field of Victorian Periodicals, is awarded by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals.

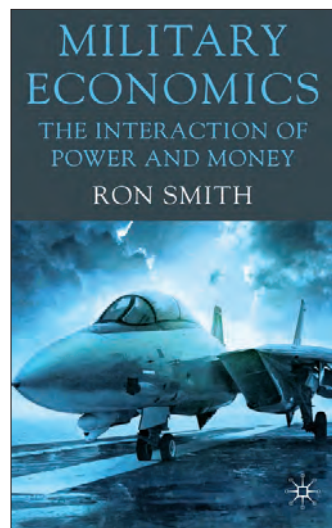
Professor Brake is a long standing member of Birkbeck's Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies, which was founded in 1996 as a collaborative intellectual project shared by the Department of English and Humanities, the then School of History, Classics and Archaeology and the then School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media.

**Dr Geoff Walters** from the Department of Management has been awarded a research grant from UEFA, the governing body of European football. The year-long project will focus on the issue of corporate responsibility in the European football industry and was one of four successful projects to receive funding from a total of 40 applications to the first year of the UEFA Research Grant Programme. The award of €17,000 will fund a research survey aimed at all football clubs in the top divisions of the 53 national associations affiliated to UEFA with the aim of presenting a thorough analysis of current trends in corporate responsibility in European football. For more details go to: [www.uefa.com/uefa/stakeholders/universities/news/newsid=1506591.html](http://www.uefa.com/uefa/stakeholders/universities/news/newsid=1506591.html)

**Professor Ron Smith**, from the Department of Economics,

Mathematics and Statistics, has been shortlisted for the Duke of Westminster's Medal for Military Literature. Created with the support of the Duke of Westminster, the prize has been awarded annually since 1997. It is given for a book by a living author, regardless of nationality, gender or age, which makes a notable and original contribution to the study of international and national security, and defense. Professor Smith's book, *Military Economics: The Interaction of Power and Money*, is one of five nominations.

In addition to being presented with the medal and a cash prize of £1,000, the winner will deliver a lecture on his/her work to a distinguished audience at the Royal United Services Institute



for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) in November.

## Collaborations

**Professor Bill Bowring** has forged links with eastern European universities via the SOROS foundation Eastern Europe University Academic Fellowship Programme. The main aim of the programme is to support and guide higher education reform in south eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Mongolia.

Professor Bowring explains: "It aims to achieve lasting higher education reform by assisting progressive university departments and by supporting promising scholars who teach in these departments after they have returned from abroad with an internationally competitive Master's or other postgraduate degree".

He continues: "I'm presently International Scholar with the University of Tirana in Albania, and have just made my second three-day visit there. I work with seven brilliant young teacher scholars, all of whom have an LLM in the USA, UK or somewhere similar. I help with their doctoral research and curriculum development, etc as well as giving lectures." Further details are available at [www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/hesp/focus/afp)

## Business partnerships

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a £60,000 contract to Birkbeck's Centre for European Protected Area Research (CEPAR) and Business Relations team, to evaluate their headline Landscape Partnerships programme.

Landscape Partnerships involve up to £3 million of Lottery money alongside matched funding and aim to deliver benefits to natural and cultural heritage in Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, such as the Cotswolds, as well as other disadvantaged areas and the urban fringe. CEPAR will work with local partnerships to develop new measures of success for schemes so that long-term benefits to the community carry greater importance.

Further success for Business Relations has come with the news that the London Probation Trust has entered into a training partnership to enrol its mid-level managers on the PG Diploma in Management as sponsored students.

The Trust, which has 3500 staff and about 350 managers, is the umbrella organisation for the Probation Service in London within the Ministry of Justice. **Dr Etlyn Kenny** in the School of Business, Economics, and Informatics, responded to an invitation to tender and, with support from Business Relations, beat competition from a number of other HEIs and training providers.

If you are interested in finding out how your business could benefit from the range of services Birkbeck has to offer, go to [www.business.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.business.bbk.ac.uk)

# Obituaries

## Lord Wolfson, Terence Ingold, John Berridge & Hermione Sandwith

### Lord Wolfson (1928–2010)

Lord Wolfson of Marylebone was Chairman of former British retail group Great Universal Stores (GUS) and Chairman of the Wolfson Foundation – a charitable foundation for the advancement of health, education, the arts and humanities.

Born Leonard Wolfson, he grew up in Worcester. His father, who started life as a cabinet maker in Glasgow, was responsible for transforming GUS from a small Manchester mail-order company into one of the biggest retail businesses in Europe. Leonard Wolfson became a director of the company in 1952 and oversaw a period of intense expansion, ensuring the place of GUS as one of the century's great business dynasties.

The Wolfson Foundation was set up by Leonard and his family in 1955, starting with £6m worth of GUS shares. Since its inception the Foundation has awarded more than £600m in grants – there is scarcely a university in the country that does not gratefully bear witness to Wolfson's generosity, with a named laboratory, library or accommodation block. A significant grant for Birkbeck (there were many) was £800,000 towards relocating the College's Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development to its present home, next to the Clore Management Centre, in the Henry Wellcome building.

A passion for history led Lord Wolfson to establish, in 1973, an annual Wolfson History Prize for books which combined scholarship with accessibility for the general reader. Over the years, four members of Birkbeck's History department have won the prize – Joanna Bourke, Orlando Figes, Richard Evans and our President, Eric Hobsbawm.

Lord Wolfson gained his peerage in 1985, and was made a Fellow of Birkbeck in 2006.



### Professor Terence Ingold (1905–2010)

Professor Terence Ingold was one of the world's leading mycologists and a major figure in the development of new universities at home and abroad. He died on 31 May 2010 – a few weeks short of his 105th birthday.

Ingold's botanical studies of fungi were driven by a fascination with form, how it develops and how it relates to function. His best known studies were of aquatic hyphomycetes, which he collected from the foam of river banks. In recognition of his discoveries, these weirdly shaped fungal spores came to be known as Ingoldian Fungi.

Professor Ingold took up the prestigious Chair of Botany at Birkbeck in 1944. He held this post for 28 years until 1972 and was Vice-Master of the College from 1965–1970. Ingold also held several

senior posts at the University of London including Dean of the Faculty of Science and Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (1966–1968). He was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1970, in recognition of his work with overseas universities.

### John Berridge (1927–2010)

John Berridge was an active student politician after enrolling at Birkbeck to study Logic, English and Philosophy. He was elected President of Birkbeck Students' Union, the London University Union and Vice-President of the National Union of University Students. Berridge reached the height of his political influence in the late 1960s when, while working as a politics lecturer at Dundee University, the then Prime Minister, Ted Heath, commissioned Berridge to create a policy for Scottish devolution.

### Hermione Sandwith (1925–2010)

Graduating with a degree in History of Art from Birkbeck, Hermione Sandwith quickly secured a job as a secretary at the National Trust. Before long she was at the forefront of changes which would raise the Trust's standard of care to match that of the national museums.

With fellow Trust employee Sheila Stainton, Sandwith compiled a manual of recommended conservation practice for managers of the Trust's houses. Subsequently published as *The Manual of Housekeeping* (Allen Lane, 1984) it has since been translated into several languages. Now in an expanded second edition, it remains the only publication written specifically for curators of house museums.

Above:  
Lord Wolfson, after  
receiving the Birkbeck  
Fellowship  
(Birkbeck Photo Unit)



# A Birkbeck judgement

## Jenny Rowe's journey from Malet Street to the highest court in the land

Constitutional change can be a slow process in the United Kingdom, but Birkbeck alumna Jenny Rowe has been at its forefront throughout a distinguished career in the Civil Service.

Jenny is the Chief Executive of the UK Supreme Court, which has just celebrated its first anniversary amid the beautifully refurbished Middlesex Guildhall on Parliament Square. "I took up the post in May 2008, about 16 months before the court became operational. Up until July last year I was tucked away down a corridor with the Law Lords in the House of Lords working on a range of practical issues about the establishment of the Court, until we had our official opening by HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in October 2009."

Around 40 staff work at the Supreme Court and Jenny's day-to-day responsibilities range from dealing with budget issues, to supporting the President of the Court on policy issues, to meeting a few of the 40,000 visitors they had in the first year.

It all seems a long way from completing an MSc in Policy and Administration at Birkbeck in 1984, but Jenny sees her time at the College as an important stage in her career. "I had spent four years as a junior civil servant and wanted to do something that would give me intellectual stimulation, allow me to carry on working and benefit my career. My MSc gave me more self-confidence to look at different Civil Service positions and probably gave me an edge over some of the other candidates."

Shortly after graduating, Jenny was promoted to a position in the Treasury and then quickly promoted again in the Lord Chancellor's Department, in what was to be the first of a number of roles working alongside the judiciary. Appointed Principal Private Secretary to Lord Chancellor Lord Mackay in 1990, she

became the first woman and only the second non-lawyer to hold the position. "One of the interesting things about the role of the Lord Chancellor, as it was then, is that in many ways it was the complete antithesis of the separation of powers – his role encompassed the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. You were working very much at the interface between different parts of the constitution; what I learned at Birkbeck was very helpful to me in terms of looking at the broader picture."

The Supreme Court is the highest UK court for all civil law in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and for criminal law in England and Wales and Northern Ireland. It also hears devolution

appeals. In its first year, it heard 67 appeals and gave 62 judgments on matters ranging from bank charges, to the rights of gay asylum seekers to remain in the country. Much of its work is directly comparable to what the Law Lords did in their judicial capacity in the House of Lords, but Jenny points out there is much that is new too. "The creation of the Supreme Court recognises that the judiciary is an arm of the constitutional arrangements in this country in a way that hadn't been quite so explicit before. Moving to a separate building like this has helped make our work a lot more transparent and accessible."

To study Public Policy and Management, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective)

Below: Jenny Rowe, Chief Executive of the UK Supreme Court



# Financial times

## Moorad Choudhry examines the future challenges for banks



Changes are looming in the world of finance. Moorad Choudhry, Head of Treasury at Europe Arab Bank, has worked in the City of London for 21 years, so understandably has strong views on the direction the sector is taking. "Free market capitalism is still the best economic system there is, but the need for firm regulatory supervision remains."

Moorad started his career in the City in 1989, after completing his undergraduate study at the University of Westminster and an MA at the University of Reading. His first taste of part-time study was an MBA from Henley Business School, before he completed a PhD in Financial Economics at Birkbeck in 2008. Unsurprisingly he remembers it as a busy time: "The commitment required for a PhD is particularly hard when working full-time so I

had to complete the work in stages. After a long gap, you have to re-acquaint yourself with the work already done so it was quite onerous and took a while. My lasting memories are finishing a lecture at 9pm on a cold winter's evening and then getting the train from Waterloo. I didn't get home till 10.45pm – it was a long day."

Moorad continues: "Birkbeck was, and remains, just about the only university that offered evening supervision to do a PhD and my supervisor, Professor Christine Oughton (now of SOAS), was absolutely brilliant – a fantastic, clever, robustly analytical person, and a great support."

On a day-to-day basis, Moorad manages 13 staff and is responsible for managing the balance of his firm's assets and liabilities, as well

as finding profits through deals with other banks in the inter-bank lending market. He sees his PhD as beneficial to his career. "The work of practitioners and academics rarely crosses over in finance and banking but my analytical and research skills were greatly improved by my studies. My reasoning became more robust, and that does help in the job."

Already widely published, Moorad has just completed a book entitled *The Future of Finance*, published by John Wiley & Sons and is working on *The Principles of Banking*, a textbook aimed at senior bank management and regulatory authorities. His involvement in academia continues too – Moorad is a visiting professor at London Metropolitan University, a visiting research fellow at the International Capital Market Association Centre, University of Reading, as well as an occasional visiting lecturer at Birkbeck's Department of Management. Looking to the future, Moorad's personal ambitions include "getting to the board level of a bank" and "staying involved with Birkbeck as one of its alumni".

Taking a wider view of the banking sector's future, Moorad strikes a cautionary note: "It appears that the changes in banking and finance won't be as great as first envisaged. The Dodd-Frank financial reform bill in the US was much watered down from its first proposals, meaning that the systemic risk from 'too-big-to-fail' banks hasn't been addressed in either the United States or Britain. The financial crisis of 2007–2008 was as much a result of incompetent management as it was of anything else; I would like to see senior bank management make a genuine change in thinking and focus on a business model that is more sustainable in the long-term."

For details about studying Financial Economics at Birkbeck, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/prospective)

Above: Moorad Choudhry, Head of Treasury at Europe Arab Bank

# Alumni news

## Donations continue to make a real difference

### Benedetta Ciaccia Memorial Fund

Five years have passed since Birkbeck student Benedetta Ciaccia was tragically killed in the 7/7 London bomb attacks. She gained a Foundation Degree in IT with Merit but sadly did not learn of her success before she died. In her memory, Birkbeck and Pearson (the international publishing company that was Benedetta's employer) established a prize to reward excellence for those studying the Foundation Degree in IT. Since its inception, the following students have all been honoured with the Benedetta Ciaccia Memorial Fund Prize: Christian Bosio (2006), Helen Gower and Nigel Macarthur – (2007), Artur Jach (2008), Gabriella Asprella Libonati and Christopher Lattimer (2009).

Thanks to generous donations from students, staff and alumni, the fund continues to make a real difference to the lives of Birkbeck students.

For information about donating, please contact [development@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:development@bbk.ac.uk)

### Telephone campaign

Over £250,000 was pledged by generous alumni as part of the annual Alumni Fund telephone campaign, which ended in May. Five months of preparation, four weeks of calling and 1750 conversations led to the most successful campaign ever, with the pledged money set to be collected over the next five years.

Since it was set up, the Fund has disbursed nearly £500,000, enabling the College's mission

to provide accessible education to people from all walks of life through student bursaries and improve campus facilities, such as the My Birkbeck Student Centre.

### Former Student Governor Elections

Eamonn Moyles has been elected as the Former Student Governor from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2013. Eamonn will take over from Susie Hodge. Eamonn gained a BA in Philosophy in 2007 before going on to complete his MSc in International Security and Global Governance in 2009.

The College Secretary's office and the Development and Alumni team would like to thank all those who stood for election.

### CASE award for Alumni Head

CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, recently awarded Adrian Punaks, Birkbeck's Head of Development and Alumni, the Ian More Award, which is a new prize that recognises the outstanding achievements of an emerging development professional.

In the past year at Birkbeck Adrian and his team have raised £5m in pledged income outstripping the annual £1m target by 500%; return on investment for fundraising was 17:1 and philanthropic income represented a significant 7% of the College's annual financial turnover. The citation read: "Adrian is seen as a role model for young British fundraisers".

### Scholars' Evening

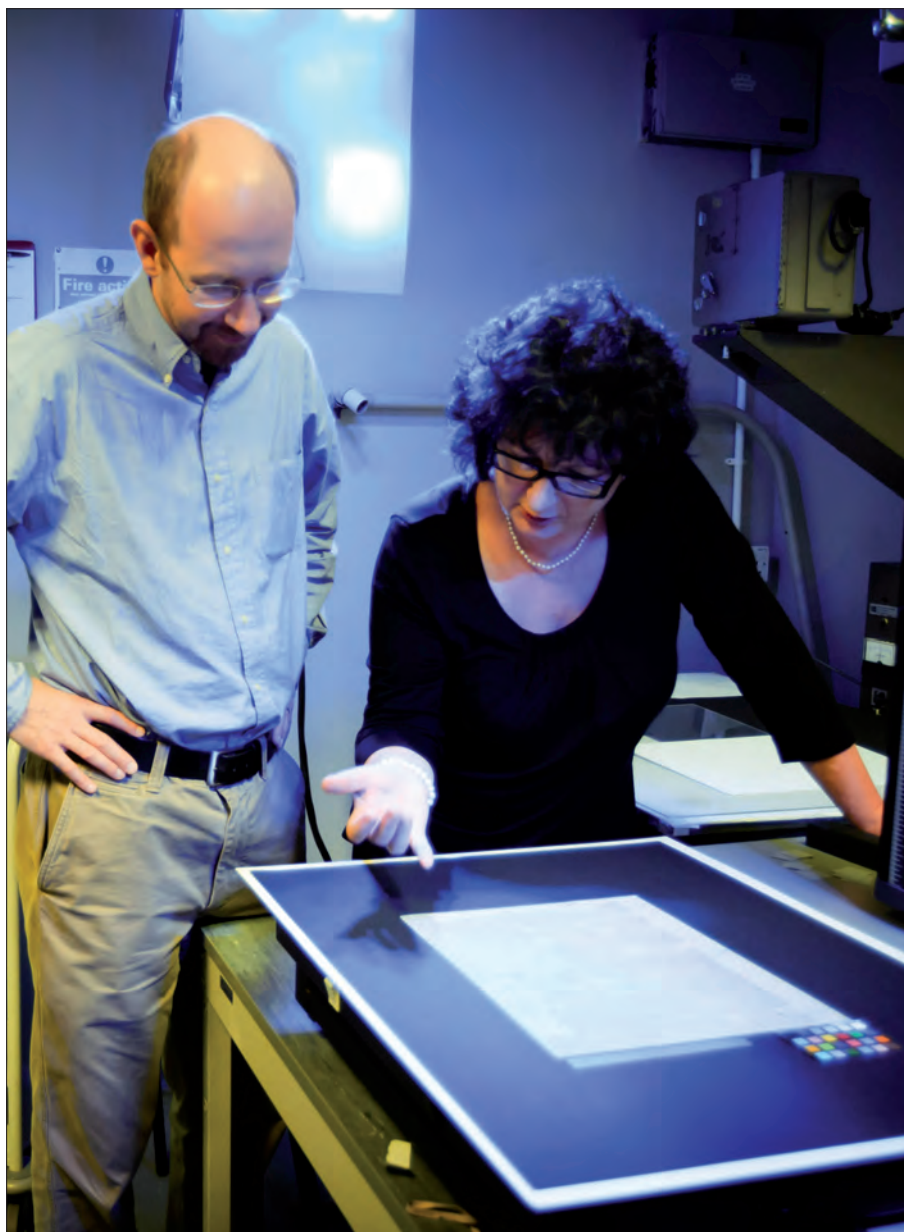
In recognition of the vital support Birkbeck's alumni have provided over the past year, the Master, Professor David Latchman CBE, hosted the third annual Scholars' Evening on 29 June 2010 (*pictured left*). The event enabled current students and bursary recipients to thank donors for their generosity, and discuss the changes that have taken place at the College.

During the evening, speeches were made by the Master and Dr Pat Oakley – an alumna, current student and regular donor. Bursary recipient, Esther Poyer, also thanked Birkbeck's alumni and spoke about her future beyond Birkbeck.



# Dr Livingstone's field diaries revealed

By deciphering David Livingstone's last diaries, Dr Adrian Wisnicki and Dr Debbie Harrison have renewed interest in the explorer

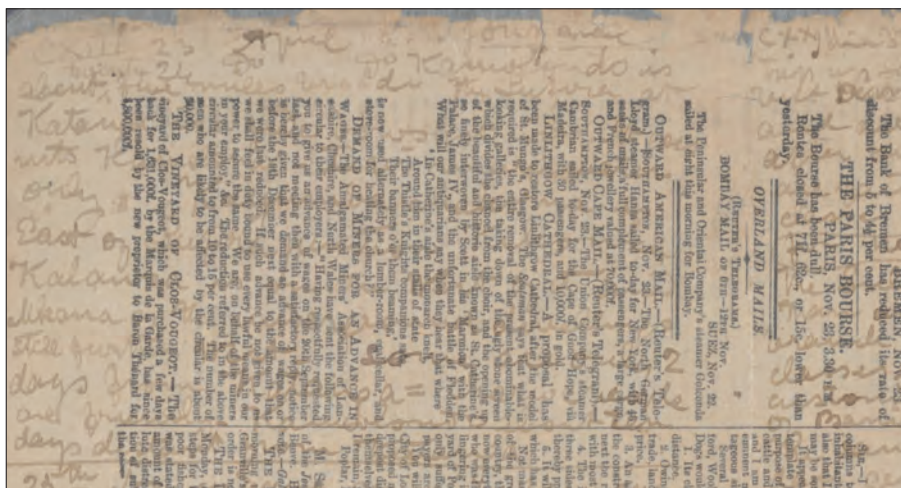


For 140 years rare manuscripts, crucial to our understanding of David Livingstone's last years in Africa before his death in 1873, have been inaccessible to the public and scholars due to their fragility and near-indecipherable script. Now, thanks to a major transatlantic collaboration between Birkbeck academics, US imaging scientists and British archival institutions, Livingstone's final field diaries are being deciphered and made available in a digital edition and online image database for the first time.

David Livingstone was born into humble beginnings in Blantyre, Scotland in 1813 but went on to become a famous doctor, explorer and missionary, and an iconic figure in the late-Victorian abolitionist movement. Reports recorded in his field diaries during his last expedition from 1866–1873 include a first-hand account – never before published in unabridged form – of a shocking massacre he witnessed just months before his famous meeting with Henry Morton Stanley in late 1871, which gave rise to the memorable phrase: “Dr Livingstone, I presume?”

Earlier that year, Livingstone was stranded in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo where for several months he was a virtual captive of the slave traders he abhorred. Most of his attendants had deserted him, taking with them essential supplies including the medicines on which he relied for survival in the inhospitable, fever-ridden terrain. The diary pages from this period record in harrowing detail the massacre of African villagers by Arab slave traders in the Congolese village of Nyangwe. But by now Livingstone had run out of paper and was almost out of ink and so he had to improvise, writing on pages torn from books and newspapers and using ‘ink’ squeezed from the seeds of a local plant. This solution might have

Left: Drs Wisnicki and Harrison prepare the manuscript for the imaging process  
 Right: The original diary, written over a book; and the same page after digital enhancement

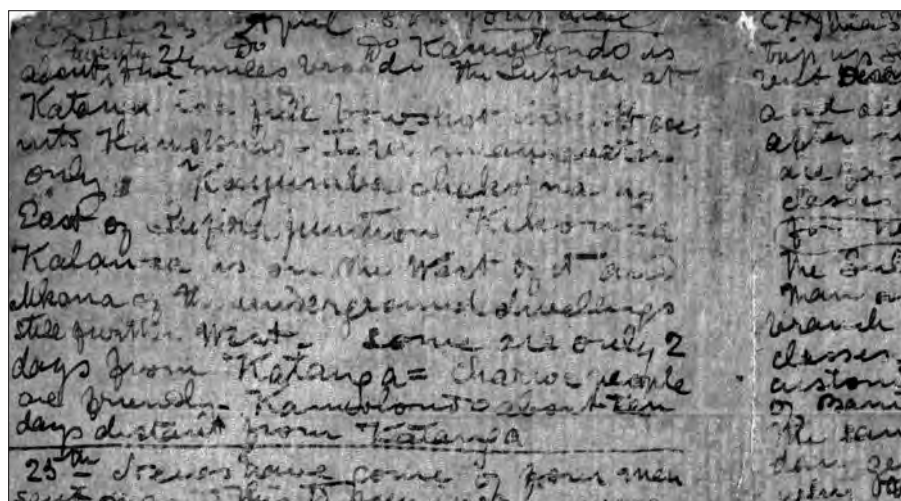


worked at the time, but today Livingstone's words have faded to the point where they are illegible, while the continuing prominence of the printed text over which he wrote further obscures his writing.

Revised accounts of the Nyangwe massacre, circulated after Stanley's arrival back in England, crystallised Livingstone's reputation as an anti-slavery crusader and became an iconic rallying point for late Victorian abolitionists, ultimately resulting in the British-enforced closure of the notorious Zanzibar slave market.

After an extensive period of research, the imaging of the 1870–1871 section of the diary that includes the massacre was completed this summer by the members of the Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project. The pages written on by Livingstone included an 1869 edition of the *London Standard*, a forerunner of today's *Evening Standard*. The multispectral imaging technique used for the project is drawn from modern surveillance technology and had already been used to recover erased writing in medieval palimpsests (parchments in which later writing has been superimposed on effaced earlier writing). Digital images were taken of the diaries while illuminating the pages with a range of narrow bands of light before further digital processing isolated Livingstone's writing from the underlying newsprint, making his words available to view in a way never before possible.

Now the imaging of the diaries has been completed, work is underway to decipher the diary pages the multispectral imaging has revealed that in his account of the Nyangwe massacre, Livingstone changes his 'ink' mid-page from the weak pigment he made from the crushed seeds of a local plant to his last supply of the more robust iron gall ink. This indicates that he was fully aware of the momentous importance



of the massacre, of which he was the sole independent witness. He concludes his diary entry with the following words, which convey in stark language the immediacy of his experiences:

*'As I write I hear the loud wails on the left bank over those who are there slain ignorant of their many friends now in the depths of [the River] Lualaba – oh Let thy kingdom come – no one will ever know the exact loss on this bright sultry summer morning – It gave me the impression of being in Hell.'*

The project was launched in July with the publication of a 'lost' letter, written by Livingstone in February 1871, which is in the private ownership of American photographer and diarist Peter Beard and his wife, Nejma. The letter, which was subjected to the spectral imaging process to retrieve the faded script, provides an unvarnished impression of an old man who is chronically ill and in despair of ever returning home. The media response to the *Letter from Bambarre* included coverage by BBC Radio 4, *ITV London Tonight*, and

more than 150 other publications around the world. Clearly there is a high level of public interest for a more accurate and personal account of the explorer's troubled final years.

The Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project is funded by the British Academy in London and the US National Endowment for Humanities. The team is working closely with the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre and the National Library of Scotland, which hold the original manuscripts. A demonstration edition of *Letter from Bambarre* is available to view on the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library website ([visit emelibrary.org/livingstoneletter/index.htm](http://www.emelibrary.org/livingstoneletter/index.htm)); many other Livingstone manuscripts can be viewed at *Livingstone Online* ([www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk)), the leading British-based internet resource for Livingstone's writings.

Dr Adrian Wisnicki and Dr Debbie Harrison are Honorary Research Fellows at Birkbeck. To study English and Humanities at Birkbeck, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/eh](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eh)

# Out of Africa

**Dr Charlie Bristow explains how dust from Africa is helping keep the Amazon rainforest alive**

**D**ust is more than just dirt. Atmospheric mineral dust is an important part of Earth's ecosystem spreading nutrients across the surface of the globe, creating chemical reactions in the atmosphere and influencing our planet's climate. My first visit to the dustiest place on Earth, the Bodélé Depression in northern Chad, was in early 2005. I had just returned from another field trip to Antarctica a few days earlier and so rapidly succumbed to the heat, but I managed to acclimatise on the three-day drive north from N'Djamena, the capital of Chad. Driving in that part of the world, you don't follow a road but more a series of tracks that wind their way through the landscape. On arrival, we established a camp site at a place called Chicha that is indicated on the Michelin Map of Chad but in fact turns out to be a solitary tree. It is a very significant tree, nonetheless, providing a source of shade in an unremitting desert and access to a nearby hand-dug well for fresh water.

The Bodélé Depression is around 120km wide, 350km long, and lies within one of the more remote areas of the Sahara Desert in northern Chad. At its centre lies the remains of a dried up lake bed which is covered in the migrating sand dunes that make this the dustiest place on Earth. Today, no rivers flow into the depression, but 6,000 years ago it was home to the biggest freshwater lake in Africa, Palaeolake Megachad, which had a surface area of around 400,000km<sup>2</sup> – bigger than all the Great Lakes of North America combined. Formed when the climate in north Africa



Left, clockwise from top: Satellite image of Saharan Desert dust flowing northwestward off the coast of Africa (NASA/courtesy nasaimages.org); The camp at Chicha after a storm; Migrating sand dunes in the Bodélé Depression

Right: The research team in the field (l-r): Richard Washington, Andrew Warren, Adrian Chappell, Charlie Bristow, Sebastian Englestaeder. Front row: Martin Todd



was much wetter, the lake has since dried out leaving the much smaller Lake Chad as a remnant in the south and the desiccated Bodélé Depression in the north.

Andrew Warren, Emeritus Professor in Geography at UCL, led the research team and we were joined by a group of meteorologists – Richard Washington from Oxford University and Martin Todd from UCL (now of Sussex University), as well as another geographer, Adrian Chappell (then at Salford University, now at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Australia). As part of the planning for the expedition, I worked with Nick Drake (KCL) on mapping the extent of Palaeolake Megachad. The shoreline features of the former lake are remarkably well preserved within the Sahara and clearly visible on satellite images, which provided us with an introduction to the geomorphology of the area. The satellite images enabled us to prepare maps which we then used to navigate in the field, with hand-held GPS receivers.

Once the camp had been set up at Chicha, the meteorologists began assembling their weather station, a system for tracking weather balloons and sun photometer. I started on the first of three crossings of the lake bed to collect sediment samples for dating and geochemical analysis, while Adrian Chappell set out dust traps across a field of dunes in anticipation of a dust storm blowing up. After two weeks the wind got up to gale force – driving sand and dust into the air, destroying our camp site and flattening the tents. The dust storm lasted for three days and swiftly filled Adrian's dust traps with sediment which my Birkbeck Earth and Planetary Science colleague, Karen Hudson-Edwards, and I later analysed in London. The storm also had the effect of working sand and dust into our every orifice – eyes, ears and nose – as well as ensuring that all of our food came with a seasoning of dust and sand,

## “Bodélé dust may be influencing climate change by helping to shade the Earth's surface and reducing atmospheric CO<sup>2</sup>.”

and drinks were laden with sediment. Despite these discomforts, I made a second trip to the Chad Basin with Nick Drake and Simon Armitage in 2008, with funding from the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers Peter Flemming award, sampling the palaeolake shorelines at the southern end of the basin and visiting its last remnant, Lake Chad.

The desiccation of Palaeolake Megachad is a stark testament to the natural changes that have occurred in the Earth's climate since the last ice age ended around 11,000 years ago. During that time the lake basin has been filled to its brim (overflowing south, down the Benue River and eventually into the Gulf of Guinea), and then dried out so that the northern basin became part of the Sahara Desert. The changes in lake level reflect changes in the Monsoon rains across west Africa. At the lake's peak, monsoon rainfall turned what is now the Sahara Desert green, although the rains have since receded south and the desert has returned. Changes in the Earth's climate have affected the lake in the past, but now the lake bed may be influencing climate itself.

The dust from the Bodélé carries phosphorus across the ocean and helps to keep the Amazon rainforest alive. Produced by wind erosion of the lake bed sediments, the dust forms a plume that extends out over the Atlantic Ocean. This plume reflects sunlight, causing a shading effect by reducing the amount of light that reaches the Earth's surface. The minerals in the dust plume also contain a host of chemicals which can help to increase plant fertility – highly significant when you consider that about 20% of the dust gets

carried across the Atlantic as far as the Amazon rainforest. The soils in the Amazon are deeply weathered, with elements that are essential for photosynthesis, like phosphorus, used up or leached out of the soils. The dust from the Bodélé carries phosphorus across the ocean and helps to keep the Amazon rainforest alive. In addition, around half the dust falls into the Equatorial Atlantic Ocean where the micronutrients, including iron and phosphorus, are made available for algae to grow. The marine algae and the Amazon rainforest both help to remove CO<sup>2</sup> from the atmosphere during photosynthesis, so the Bodélé dust may be influencing climate change today by helping to shade the Earth's surface and reducing atmospheric CO<sup>2</sup> – potentially helping to offset global warming.

Looking ahead, there is only a finite reservoir of lake deposits in the Bodélé Depression. Although we can work out how long it was since the lake was full of water and also when it dried out, we don't yet know how long the lake bed will continue to produce dust. Other vital research questions remain: how soluble, and, therefore, available to organisms are the nutrients in the Bodélé dust? What will happen if atmospheric changes mean dust from the Bodélé is diverted away from the Amazon? We have helped to solve one part of the puzzle but there are more research questions to be addressed.

Dr Charlie Bristow is an Associate Dean, School of Science, and Head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. To study Earth and Planetary Science at Birkbeck, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/es](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/es)

# Forty years' crisis

The aftermath of two world wars left millions of people in Europe as refugees. Dr Jessica Reinisch recounts the recent history of refugees

When the United Nations launched the first ever World Refugee Year in June 1959, it came at the end of a tumultuous half century of military and diplomatic conflict and a succession of refugee crises originating in Europe. The publicity and events surrounding World Refugee Year were designed not just to heighten awareness of international efforts in the support of refugees and raise funds for the cash-strapped United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but also to draw a line under the European refugee problem by resettling the remaining 'hardcore' of wartime displaced still languishing in refugee camps.

Refugees have been a prominent feature of modern European history. In the twentieth century, tens of millions of people have been forced to flee their home countries. The largest population movements followed the two world wars, when millions of Europeans fled their homes or were uprooted by evacuation, deportation, resettlement or emigration. Nor did the end of the Second World War bring an end to these upheavals.

A multitude of refugees and displaced people continued to trek through the rubble and ruins well into the post-war era. Ethnic Germans fled or were expelled from their former homes in central eastern Europe and moved westwards into the defeated rump of Germany; surviving Jews fled their native countries to seek refuge further west, or in the United States or Palestine; millions of Soviet citizens were moved through state resettlement programmes and deportations; Italians were expelled from Yugoslavian territory, just as subjects of the former Italian colonies made their way to the 'motherland' in search of housing, work and education; and Poles had to leave eastern areas that were no longer part of Poland and populate the new western territorial additions to their country. Millions more were uprooted through organised population transfers with neighbouring states, where

national frontiers failed to conform to the distribution of ethnic, linguistic or religious groups. They had often been caught directly in the racial conflicts of the previous decades, and their prospects were shaped by high-level political decisions about their countries, national borders and citizenship; for many, a return to their pre-war homes and lives became unfeasible.

The presence of these refugees and displaced people shaped Europe's twentieth century in a number of crucial ways. Together with the ethnic and genocidal programmes of the 1930s and 1940s, these movements radically altered the demographic structure of many European countries. After 1945, many of these movements progressed just as the remarkable post-war economic boom got underway - the presence of refugees and displaced people shaped their host nations' prospects for economic renewal and reconstruction. Refugees in a world of nation-states found themselves at the centre of the evolving international regime which formulated legal terms of status, protection, asylum and human rights.

World Refugee Year in 1959 supposedly brought to a close the 'short' twentieth century of European refugees and refugee policy; marking the end of the forty years' crisis for refugees in Europe. By the time it ended in July 1960, almost 100 countries had campaigned to raise money for refugee relief and most refugee camps in Europe had been cleared. But globally, the refugee problem was far from solved. World Refugee Year highlighted the fact that many displaced people did not fall under the protection of UNHCR. Refugees were no longer predominantly European in origin, but millions of people continued to be uprooted in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. According to the World Refugee Survey for 2009, there are almost 14 million refugees and asylum seekers worldwide - of which less than half a million are found in

Europe. This total does not include millions of 'internally displaced persons', who are refugees in all but name but have not crossed internationally recognised borders.

In September, Birkbeck hosted an international, three-day conference on refugees in twentieth century European history, taking a pan-European perspective and locating these refugee crises and responses in an international and global context. Generously funded by the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, the Wellcome Trust, the Royal Historical Society, Birkbeck and the University of Leeds, this was the first major gathering of historians and other scholars to consider the importance and impact of refugees in twentieth century Europe and beyond. Over 30 speakers charted the formation of international solutions to refugee problems and considered resulting legislation as well as national and international legacies. Internationally renowned historians Michael Marrus (University of Toronto) and Zara Steiner (Murray-Edwards College, Cambridge) gave keynote lectures reflecting on the fundamental problem of how refugees can be reconciled with an international system resting on the sovereignty of nation-states. The lectures are available as podcasts at [www.bbk.ac.uk/history](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history)

The conference was accompanied by an exhibition, *Refugees 1919-1959*, researched and curated by Birkbeck students. It juxtaposed official records on refugee policy with refugees' own accounts.

Dr Jessica Reinisch is a lecturer in the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology. She jointly organised *The Forty Years Crisis: Refugees in Europe, 1919-1959* conference with Dr Matthew Frank from the University of Leeds.

For information about studying history at Birkbeck, go to [www.bbk.ac.uk/history](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history)





**“In the twentieth century, tens of millions of people have been forced to flee their home countries.”**

# Mind the gap

Professor Andrew Jones challenges policymakers to understand the importance of Britain's economic geography

The days since the financial crisis of 2007 have seen the media full of analysis and commentary on the British economy. It seems that in this new era we have all become armchair economists and recreational economic historians. Ideas once confined to undergraduate textbooks are now daily fodder on the BBC's *Today* programme and have become the subject of everyday conversations: the size of the public deficit; the threat of a double dip recession; the consequence of public spending cuts for jobs, consumer spending and house prices.

The new coalition government claims that its policies are necessary medicine and will reap long-term growth while critics argue that the Chancellor's policies are in fact stifling – not stimulating – prosperity. But one crucial issue has been woefully lacking in the debates concerning British economic policy – namely, the geographical unevenness of the UK economy. Debate on this topic rarely makes it beyond vague references to the 'North-South divide', and even then there is little understanding as to whether or how this really matters to the UK's economic future.

The UK economy has evolved (as all economies do) with very specific economic geography that shapes the likely outcome of government policies, and determines the options for growth and prosperity. Geographical differences in the UK's economy are not only persistent, but are entrenched at a range of complicated scales from the level of small towns to whole regions. Government spending stimulates growth in some places and not others, and cuts in spending have an equivalent – although not necessarily exactly opposite –

effect. Yet much of the policy discussion after the recent recession treats the UK economy as if it were some kind of uniform landscape when in fact it is not and never has been.

These issues are addressed in the recently published *The Economic Geography of the UK*, which has been co-edited with Dr Neil Coe from the University of Manchester. The book explores how many of the challenges faced by the UK economy today are inherently geographical, and cannot be understood or addressed without a sophisticated appreciation of how they came about and where they exist in the UK's economic landscape, and aims to address this gap in current policy debates.

Everyone is familiar with the concept of a North-South divide, but the underlying regional differences amount to far more than a simple concentration of wealth in London and the south east. A divide does indeed exist – but it extends far beyond economics to span life expectancy, social mobility, educational achievement and access to services. Professor Danny Dorling addresses this issue in *The Economic Geography of the UK* and comprehensively dispels the still common Thatcher-era idea that growth in London and the south east has compensated for the relative underperformance of other regions. This is compounded by indications that service industries in other regions of Britain have failed to catch up with the dominance of London and the south east over the last 20 years. The circulation of goods, commodities and services – termed as 'the geography of production' – is an area that highlights the challenges that manufacturing activities have faced in recent times. The relentless



growth in business service industries has only served to reinforce the advantage of London and the south east, but the significance of regional differences in retailing and the complete transformation of agriculture, food and energy industries have served to alter radically the nature of places across Britain too.

Another factor that continues to mould the UK's economic geography is inequalities in relation to finance. The City of London enjoys complete and, as John Allen argues in the book, stifling dominance over the economy in the rest of the country, thanks to its status as an international financial centre. This concentration of power overshadows growth prospects for finance in other cities across the UK. Recent government policies aimed at driving economic development forward have created a highly uneven geography of



**“A divide exists, extending far beyond economics to span life expectancy, social mobility, educational achievement and access to services.”**

Above: Boarded up derelict housing in the Edge Hill district of Liverpool (Getty Images)

public-private partnership funding over the last decade that has contributed to uneven regional consequences (and often in unanticipated ways). Further challenging and uncomfortable considerations for policy makers are how the variable geography of the UK housing market contributed to the financial crisis of 2007, as well as the way in which pension inequalities are producing a new geography of economic insecurity for people living in different parts of the country.

Social change has had an inevitable effect on today's economic geography of Britain, producing an uneven social landscape. The increasing rise of flexible working in the UK is producing a new labour market geography that is increasingly characterised by growing job insecurity for many people. And that is not to forget the thorny issue of how migration has

dramatically changed the social geography of the UK – most powerfully in London's and other urban labour markets.

The co-editors hope this new book will at least give some pause for thought to those involved in national economic policy debates which all too often are south-east focused, and treat the UK economy as a uniform whole. There is an awful lot more geographical unevenness across the UK economy than many in Westminster or London's newsrooms appear sometimes to appreciate.

Professor Andrew Jones is Head of the Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies. *The Economic Geography of the UK* is available now, published by SAGE Publications. To study geography at Birkbeck, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/geog](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/geog)

# Left to die?

Prospects for a future Labour government rest on the ability of its leaders to construct and articulate a coherent economic policy, argues Dr Jason Edwards



## “Labour’s aim was not to abolish capitalism, but to humanise and manage it by constructing a mixed economy.”

A number of reasons have been put forward for Labour’s defeat at the last general election, from immigration to the unpopularity of Gordon Brown and the sense that the Government had lost touch with its core supporters. The defeat was a heavy one, with Labour achieving its lowest share of the vote since the disastrous election of 1983. But some perspective is required here. Labour lost about 6% of the vote in 2010, roughly the same percentage drop it suffered in 2005 in the wake of the Iraq war, while still managing to win a comfortable parliamentary majority. It avoided losing second place to the Liberal Democrats quite clearly and its vote held up in many areas where it was expected to collapse.

There can be little question that the principal reason for Labour’s defeat in 2010 was the financial crisis and subsequent economic recession. New Labour promised to support the forces of globalisation, including ever more deregulated financial markets, in order to create stability and prosperity in the economy and, therefore, to be able to afford increases in public spending. The financial crisis of 2007 onwards and the huge cuts to public expenditure now being undertaken by the Coalition Government have proved the folly of this idea. Britain’s historical over-reliance on a capricious, short-termist financial sector and its relatively low and unstable levels of investment in manufacturing and infrastructure were compounded under New Labour. Leadership hustings saw at least some of the candidates consider how this break with the economics of New Labour can be made, but only in the form of very broad statements of aspiration rather than detailed policies. An election may come much earlier than five years if the Coalition should falter, so it is important for Labour to set out such policies sooner rather than later.

Labour had a twofold approach to the economy in its periods in office from 1945–1979. Keynesian demand management through fiscal and monetary policy was

coupled with nationalisation and planning of the ‘commanding heights’ of the economy. The aim was not to abolish capitalism, but to humanise and manage it by constructing a mixed economy. We tend to forget too easily that for much of this period Labour’s main objectives were met: full-employment, a comprehensive welfare state and steady (if unspectacular) economic growth. The model was brought into question in the particular circumstances of the 1970s, with increasingly mobile financial capital, growing levels of external debt, rising energy prices, and sluggish economic growth making Keynesian economic management increasingly ineffective. At the same time, it became clear that the large public corporations created through nationalisation were far from models of efficiency and innovation.

In opposition between 1979–1997, Labour thus gradually withdrew its commitment to both tenets of its post-war economic model arguing that management of interest rates should be ceded to the Bank of England, with a priority given to controlling inflation, and linking increases in public expenditure to economic growth. Nationalisation was effectively ditched by 1992. New Labour fully embraced the idea of economic globalisation as a positive force, encouraging the idea of increasing British competitiveness by reducing regulation and taxation on financial services and creating a competitive – i.e. low tax – environment for business. The question of ownership of firms operating in Britain was seen as increasingly irrelevant; the goal was to create the right conditions, particularly in the financial sector, for foreign direct investment.

The financial crisis has painfully exposed the limitations of New Labour’s economic policies. Yet importantly it also demonstrated the relative resilience of the British economy. The coalition pointed to the ‘firestorm’ that was running through the bond markets at the time of the Greek crisis as justification for massive cuts to public spending. There is, however, little evidence

that Britain was or is on the brink of sudden disinvestment by foreign creditors, who largely continue to have confidence in Government bonds. Britain’s economy remains the sixth largest in the world and, despite the continued long-term decrease in investment in industry, the UK exports more manufactured goods than any other European country apart from Germany. National debt stands close to £1 trillion – public expenditure cuts can only make a relatively small dent in that figure and in the long-term it will have to be paid through proceeds from economic growth. But the question of British decline will raise its head once more if the current round of austerity leads to a second recession, an increase in unemployment, the devastation of public services and the paradox of a further growth in public debt as receipts from taxation fall.

In this context, it is important that the Labour leadership articulates a clear view of how it can renew its commitment to manage and humanise British capitalism. In the long-term this requires the building of a stronger and more stable economy, but one that is also more open and democratic. One possible start is to defend the role of the state in overseeing infrastructure investment. There is a desperate national need for the construction of affordable, quality social housing that can only be successfully overseen by the state. Labour could put real flesh on ‘localism’ by empowering economic agents such as small local and regional investment banks, mutual societies and co-operatives, building a bias towards them through tax and regulatory policy, and promoting citizen participation on the boards of such firms and associations.

The prospects of Labour’s return to power will depend on its ability to persuade people of its long-term vision for economic and social governance and the renewal of public life.

Dr Jason Edwards lectures in politics and is programme director for BA Politics and Society. To study politics, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/politics](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/politics)

## Volunteering for the Big Society?

### Research into the voluntary and community sector

The subject of volunteering is in the news. Prime Minister David Cameron has spoken recently of the Big Society: "Success will depend on the daily decisions of millions of people – on them giving their time, effort, even money, to causes around them." People do already volunteer a great deal in the UK – in 2008–2009, 41% of adults volunteered formally, giving unpaid help through a group, club or organisation, but there is evidence that the pattern of volunteering is changing. Between 1997 and 2007 the average number of hours per volunteer declined by 30%.

Birkbeck is at the forefront of research and discussion about key issues in the voluntary and community sector. This is partly through the work being done in the new Department of Social Policy and Education led by Professor John Annette, Professor of Citizenship and Lifelong Learning, with Dr Linda Milbourne and Dr William Ackah, but also by forging important links with two of the leading independent research centres, the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) and the Institute for Volunteer Research (IVR). An exciting development is the linking of the research centres' work with undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at Birkbeck.

There are currently two Visiting Professors, Professor Margaret Harris, a leading international authority on the voluntary sector, and Professor Justin Davis Smith, the Chief Executive of Volunteering England; his successor as head of IVR, Dr Angela Ellis Payne, is a Visiting Research Fellow at Birkbeck, as is Ben Cairns, who runs IVAR with Professor Harris.

One of the outcomes of these partnerships is the BIVAR series of seminars and lectures run with IVAR, comprising academics, as well as people working in the sector from organisations like Mind, Shelter and The Prince's Trust, plus local



community groups. Professor Annette comments: "Attendees have included staff from the Cabinet Office, which has responsibility for volunteering and the Department of Communities and Local Government, as well as a number of MPs."

On the subject of change to funding for the voluntary sector, Professor Annette sees future problems. "A lot of the big corporations will have less money to give to charities. There is a danger that these charities are going to be squeezed, not only in terms of government funding but also by a possible decline in personal charitable giving. The whole nature of volunteering is shifting too; increasingly people will go for short-term volunteering. I am currently undertaking research into youth volunteering and citizenship; I've also been looking at young people in faith communities volunteering.

Their patterns of volunteering might be different from those in a more secular context."

He continues: "An interesting question about the Conservatives' proposals for a national civic service aimed at young people is whether it will be voluntary or mandatory? If it's mandatory, it's not volunteering. Recently Demos produced a report on this subject entitled *Service Nation*, which I think has been very influential on the Conservatives. A lot of people could be turned off by civic service, although equally you could argue that it will help disaffected young people engage in active learning and break away from cycles of deprivation. But it's a high risk strategy – British people don't like being told what to do."

Above: Volunteers hand out free curry at Trafalgar Square (PA Photos)

To study Social Policy at Birkbeck, visit [www.bbk.ac.uk/soced](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/soced)

# Events and books

## Dates for your diary, and some current books

### Events

Friday 22 October, 9am–5pm  
**Conference: Building Urban Cultures**  
**Speakers:** Sara Weir, Stephen Foster, Martin Bright and Barbara Gunnell  
**Venue:** Birkbeck, Malet Street  
**Entry:** £60 (£30 conc), booking required  
**Email:** rakesh\_bhanot@hotmail.com

Monday 25–Sunday 31 October  
**Inside Out Festival run by the London Centre for Arts and Exchange (LCACE)**  
**Web** www.insideoutfestival.org.uk

Monday 25–Friday 29 October  
**Science Week**  
 See page 5 for details

Thursday 28 October, 4–6pm  
**JD Bernal Lecture: Science and Society**  
**Speaker:** Professor Sir Harry Kroto  
**Venue:** Room B34, Birkbeck, Malet St  
**Entry:** Free, booking required  
**Email:** events@bbk.ac.uk

Saturday 30 October, 2–5.30pm  
**Conference: After the Election – where now for Parliament and the Public Services?**  
**Speakers:** Tony Wright, Julian Legrand, Jose Harris, Deborah Mabbett  
**Venue:** Room B01, Clore Management Centre  
**Entry:** Free; first come, first seated  
**Email:** j.edwards@bbk.ac.uk

Tuesday 2 November, 1–3pm  
**Workshop: Kafka at the Borders – Between the Quick and the Dead**  
**Venue:** Room G16, Birkbeck, Malet St  
**Entry:** Free; first come, first seated  
**Email:** j.eisner@bbk.ac.uk

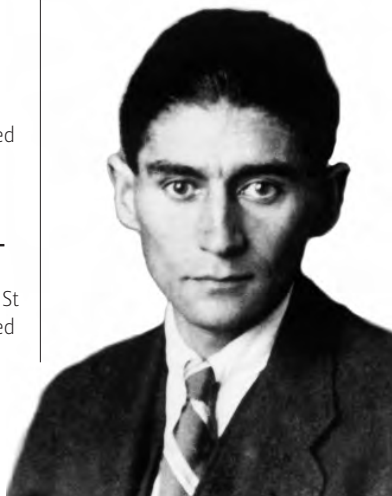
Thursday 4 November, 11am and 3pm  
**Undergraduate Graduation Ceremonies**  
**Venue:** Logan Hall, Institute of Education  
**Email:** events@bbk.ac.uk

Tuesday 9 November, 6.30–8.30pm  
**Lecture: Loss and Gain – The Social History of Knowledge, 1750–2000**  
**Speaker:** Professor Peter Burke  
**Venue:** Room B34, Birkbeck, Malet St  
**Entry:** Free; first come, first seated  
**Email:** j.eisner@bbk.ac.uk

Wednesday 10 November, 5–7pm  
**Inaugural Lecture: Equality, Race and the Jewish Problem**  
**Speaker:** Professor David Feldman  
**Venue:** Chancellors Hall, Senate House  
**Entry:** Free entry; booking required  
**Email:** events@bbk.ac.uk

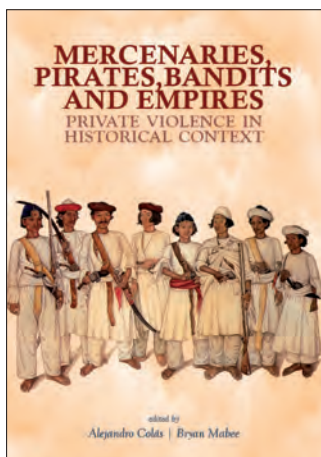
Thursday 25 November, 4–7.30pm  
**Postgraduate Open Evening**  
**Venue:** Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG  
**Entry:** Free, book at www.bbk.ac.uk/openeve  
**Email:** info@bbk.ac.uk

For a full calendar of events, visit  
 www.bbk.ac.uk/events



Right: Franz Kafka

### Books



**Mercenaries, Pirates, Bandits and Empires: Private Violence in Historical Context**  
 Alejandro Colás and Bryan Mabee (Eds)  
 Hurst 2010

**Emotions in Multiple Languages**  
 Jean-Marc Dewaele  
 Palgrave Macmillan

**Social Democracy and European Integration: The politics of preference formation**  
 Dionyssi G Dimitrakopoulos (Ed)  
 Routledge 2010

**Crimea**  
 Orlando Figes  
 Penguin 2010

**Psychoanalysis Outside the Clinic**  
 Stephen Frosh  
 Palgrave Macmillan 2010

**Who Owns Football? The Governance and Management of the Club Game Worldwide**  
 Sean Hamil and David Hassan (Eds)  
 Oxford: Routledge 2010

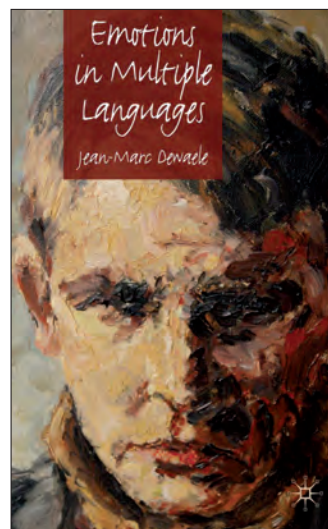
**Walsingham in Literature and Culture from the Middle Ages to Modernity**  
 Dominic Janes and Gary Waller (Eds)  
 Ashgate 2010

**The Economic Geography of the UK**  
 Andrew Jones and Neil Coe (Eds)  
 SAGE 2010

**Ethical Socialism and the Trade Unions: Allan Flanders and British Industrial Relations Reform**  
 John Kelly Routledge 2010

**Parties, Elections, and Policy Reforms in Western Europe Voting for Social Pacts**  
 John Kelly and Kerstin Hamann  
 Routledge 2010

**Gene Control**  
 David S Latchman  
 Garland Science 2010



**London: The Story of a Great City**  
 Professor Jerry White  
 Andre Deutsch in association with the Museum of London 2010

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## Cover image

Red blood cells  
(iStockphoto)



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