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KING'S
College
LONDON

Comment

For staff, students & friends

Issue 198 | January 2012

DAVID JETI



Students at King's are enjoying the newly modernised Franklin-Wilkins Library, teaching rooms and social spaces on campus and have provided glowing feedback on the services

Flexible learning environments
take a leap forward

The College's £18 million investment programme in improving learning and teaching spaces has taken a massive leap forward, with refurbishments over the past six months to the Franklin-Wilkins Library, cafés, Students' Union and teaching rooms. The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor officially opened the fully modernised library and cafés at Waterloo Campus in November.

Last summer, the Franklin-Wilkins Library was modernised into a flexible, technology-rich learning environment. It has a new reception area, spaces for collaborative study, a walk-in short loans collection, bookable group study rooms, assistive technology rooms and new student advice facilities.

A new zoning policy within the library helps to create a variety

of working environments so that students can choose to study in a zone that is completely silent or a zone with background noise.

'Refurbishment has been extensive and turned the library upside down,' said the Principal at the opening. 'As well as a new library, we now have a prototype of the first of the College's Student Hubs, marking the start of a major project to bring together front-of-house student support and make it visible and accessible.'

In conjunction with the library modernisation, the café areas in Franklin-Wilkins Building have been refurbished by Ecovert FM who manage the building, with more chill-out zones and places for students to work on laptops.

There have also been other major improvements at King's. On the

Strand Campus, the King's College London Students' Union (KCLSU) has new social space in the Macadam Building. Previously disused, The Lobby is now a place where students can relax and study. On Level -1, the student Accommodation Services office has been co-located to sit alongside The Compass student advice centre, while on the first floor, the Terrace café, boasting panoramic views across the Thames, has been revamped. The Bridge is now home to an expanded Careers Service.

Guy's Campus has seen the refurbishment of Keats Café in New Hunt's House and the informal learning and social spaces in the atrium, as well as a light refurbishment of the Greenwood Lecture theatre. Teaching rooms around the campuses are being upgraded, made more

accessible and being fitted with high-spec audio visual equipment.

There have also been improvements made to information technology, with increasing uptake of the innovative personalised Global Desktop, enabling students to access their work from anywhere with an internet connection. Student computing rooms on campus have been upgraded, more wireless access points introduced, bandwidths increased in halls of residence and a new laptop loan service rolled out.

The Learning and Teaching Space Improvement Programme Board was established in December 2008, following recognition from the Principal's Central Team that the College's provision of learning and teaching space needed to be modernised. The programme

Events

Animals in the
Strand: the elephant
in the room

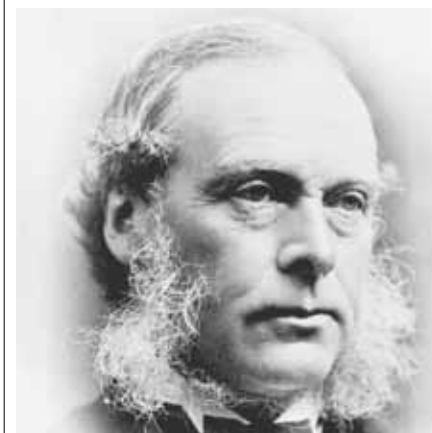
16 January 2012, 18.15 – 19.30,
Dr Christine Kenyon Jones,
Anatomy Lecture Theatre,
Strand Campus

The King's 2012
Greek Play

8, 9 and 10 February 2012,
Greenwood Theatre,
Weston Street

Learning from Lister:
Antisepsis, Safer
Surgery and
Global Health

22 – 24 March 2012, Strand Campus



More information

For more details on these events,
please turn to page 12



A word from the Principal

Dear colleagues and students, I hope you have enjoyed a very good Christmas break.

We are making good progress in reaching our widening participation (WP) targets. In particular we were delighted to launch in November the most recent of King's pioneering contributions to WP, in the form of our new Enhanced Support Dentistry Programme. This joins our flagship Extended Medical Degree Programme, which has now been running for over 10 years, in opening opportunities for exceptionally able students who want to study here but may not have A level results at the usual level.

Building on this success, as part of our strategy for widening access to the professions generally, and in light of the more competitive situation in English higher education created by the June 2011 White Paper, we have been discussing rebalancing the College's academic offering to enable us to benefit from the lifting of the HEFCE cap on recruitment to a wide range of our programmes for aspiring undergraduate students achieving AAB at A level.

The proposed strategy for achieving planned and controlled growth is to recruit 150 extra academics and 2,250 extra students by 2016 in a phased fashion in the Arts and Sciences Schools, particularly in Arts & Humanities and SSPP, to ensure that these areas reach critical mass and become self-sustaining in terms of excellent research and teaching. The detail of the expansion is currently being discussed with the relevant units. The main areas will be those where student demand has been especially high (English, History, Management and War Studies), and those where it is necessary to reinforce significant initiatives (Arts & Culture, Area Studies and Political Economy). We also hope to be able to make additional proposals for Law.

In order to achieve this, we will need to make significant changes to our estate, particularly at the Strand Campus. The estates strategy for this Campus will include a short-term solution to provide for incremental growth in the period 2012-2016, and a long-term solution for increasing permanently the amount, and quality, of usable space. We are looking at a number of options, including the redevelopment of the Surrey Street buildings and the current Law School Building. A working group on expansion, chaired by Vice-Principal Lawry Freedman, will be taking this forward.

I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Rick Trainor, Principal

King's India Institute receives £3.5 million from Avantha Group

The new India Institute at King's has received a £3.5 million gift from India's Avantha Group to endow a chair. The first holder of the Avantha Chair will be the Institute's Director, Professor Sunil Khilnani, who will advance its goal of becoming the leading international centre for the study of contemporary India.

The Institute is due to launch formally at the end of January when staff and students move into the new facilities in the King's Building.

'I am truly delighted that we have received this magnificent gift of support from Gautam Thapar and the Avantha Group,' said Professor Khilnani at a reception in November to celebrate the gift. 'It's a testament to his vision and sense that the worlds of thought and practical action have to be closely engaged in defining India's future.'

'It's also an endorsement of our own commitment at the India Institute to bring objective research and urgent policy into productive dialogue.'

The Avantha Group is one of India's leading conglomerates, operating in more than 10 countries with business interests ranging from power transmission to food processing.

The India Institute focuses on



Avantha Chair and Director of the new India Institute Professor Sunil Khilnani will lead on furthering understandings of contemporary India in its global context

India-related activities across a range of academic, cultural and practical disciplines. It allows students to develop an understanding of India in its global context and participate in discussion with academics and leaders from government and policy implementation, business, the media and cultural industries.

Flexible learning environments continued

1 began in 2009 with the refurbishment of teaching rooms on the Strand Campus and Guy's Campus. As it progresses, King's will be able to offer more choice in how, where and when students study; better access for people with disabilities; an improved working environment for staff; dynamic spaces for learning and research and more efficient services for students and staff.

Students have been involved in planning and providing feedback on the changes. KCLSU student officers have played a significant part on the Learning and Teaching Space Improvement Programme Board since its inception.

'We realise the importance of high-quality learning spaces which

integrate the vision of informal and formal learning spaces – through IT, technology and modernisation,' said the College's Vice-Principal (Education) Professor Eeva Leinonen, who chairs the Board.

'Our graduates live and work in global and competitive environments so we aim to equip them to deal with the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.'

'It's important that our students have a good learning environment that responds to the innovation in research-based teaching, even though the College has a diverse estate which presents many logistical challenges. It needs to reflect the changing needs of the student population, so we are creating more flexible

learning environments.'

Both students and staff are supportive of the improvements, which will make facilities more consistent across the College's campuses, and available over longer hours.

One third year Pharmacy student said of the library: 'I like the modernity of the environment, and the social areas. The library is flexible around my working habits and I will make use of all the areas. It's a great investment for King's students.'

Georgina MacFoy, Catering Manager of Ecovert FM at Franklin-Wilkins Building said: 'Staff are very positive and proud of the new cafés and are very enthusiastic. We've had a lot of nice comments.'

From next year, the Learning and Teaching Space Improvement Programme will focus on Denmark Hill Campus. In an innovative project, the Institute of Psychiatry will be transformed, creating an Educational Hub, providing modern, well-equipped facilities for learning and teaching and a refurbished library. The Weston Education Centre Library and teaching rooms will also be refurbished to provide flexible and integrated facilities.

At Guy's Campus, the Chantler Clinical Skills Centre, dedicated teaching space for the medical and health-related disciplines, will undergo transformation to offer state-of-the-art technological provision and facilities for practising clinical skills from Autumn 2012.



A hub of activity: students can now access key student support services in Franklin-Wilkins Library

Review of progress of King's Health Partners

A review of the progress of King's Health Partners, our Academic Health Sciences Centre, led by Professor Robert Lechler Vice-Principal (Health), was recently commissioned by the King's Health Partners Board. The review, undertaken by William McKee, produced a set of recommendations for future development, one of which is to ensure that the academic contribution to the partnership is given greater emphasis. Another recommendation is that consideration is given to organisational models up to and including a merger of the three NHS Foundation Trusts. The King's Health Partners Board has since commissioned Peter Goldsbrough of Boston Consulting Group to undertake a 'feasibility' study around each of the recommendations. Further updates will follow in early 2012.



Vice-Principal (Health) Professor Robert Lechler

Arts & Humanities Festival is the biggest to date



Australian composer and pianist Wendy Hiscocks performs extracts from *Nocturne* and the British premier of *Dry White Fire*. Wendy has recently completed a doctorate on the music of Arthur Benjamin

Last term's Arts & Humanities festival was the biggest to date, with over 30 events taking place across the Strand Campus from 24 to 29 October.

Over 1000 guests attended during the week, and saw a wide range of engaging speakers and performers. Highlights included a lecture by Peter Adamson, Professor of Ancient & Medieval Philosophy, discussing the history of philosophy as a continuous narrative. He described his podcast project, which covers the entire history of philosophy 'without any gaps'.

Also very popular was a performance lecture by Nick Wilson, Senior Lecturer in Cultural & Creative Industries, looking at the development of early music. He performed a selection of early music pieces with professional period-style performers in the evocative setting of the College Chapel.

The week was rounded off with a lecture from Michael Kerr, Senior Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies, who used literary analogy to look at narratives around ethnic conflicts, re-examining why Northern Ireland's first power-sharing experiment failed.

The diversity of events highlighted the breadth of research being carried out across the School.

New tool for natural disasters

The Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have jointly developed a new tool to assess the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies such as war, conflicts and natural disasters.

The Humanitarian Emergency Settings Perceived Needs Scale (HESPER) identifies people's needs based on their own views. 'It's a quick and scientific method to provide an accurate picture of the problems people need immediate help with,' said Professor Graham Thornicroft of the IoP.

The scale was developed by Maya Semrau from the IoP as part of her PhD. She field-tested it with people in post-earthquake camps in Haiti, displaced Iraqis in Jordan and Bhutanese refugees in Nepal.



Women and children are among the most affected by humanitarian emergencies such as conflict and natural disasters that can result in mass displacement

News in brief

Green Reggie leads King's to environmental sustainability

King's students, staff, contractors and suppliers are being urged to be more environmentally aware as part of a 'Green Reggie' campaign. The initiative, being fronted by an eco-conscious version of King's emblem, Reggie the lion, is encouraging small changes in people's working days to reduce carbon emissions and expenditure on utilities and waste disposal.

Green ambassadors are being recruited as the eyes and ears of the campaign and free training will be provided. To sign up please email environment@kcl.ac.uk.

Find out more about the campaign by visiting the new environment webpages at www.kcl.ac.uk/environment.



New staff in the Department of History

In September 2011 the Department of History welcomed three new permanent members of academic staff: Dr Anna Maerker, Dr Simon Sleight and Dr Alice Taylor.

The Department also appointed Dr Eliza Filby as a Lecturer in Modern British History, to cover for Professor Richard Vinen who is on research leave, and Dr Bernard Gowers as a Lecturer in European Medieval History, to cover for Dr Alice Rio who is also on research leave.

10-year contract extension for defence education

The Defence Studies Department has extended its contract to educate Armed Forces personnel until 2021.

The contract, potentially worth more than £50 million, is from the UK's Defence higher educational establishment. It extends an agreement first made in 2000 to educate personnel at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Shrivenham.

Visiting King's in October, the Director General of the Defence Academy, Peter Watkins, said: 'King's outstanding track record and strong ethos of innovation and research made them an exceptional choice and I am delighted to continue to invest in that relationship.'



King's joins Francis Crick Institute



King's College London and Imperial College London have now formally joined the partnership behind The Francis Crick Institute. The partnership was made official at a signing ceremony in October 2011. The event was witnessed by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, the Science Minister David Willetts MP and the Director and Chief Executive of The Francis Crick Institute, Sir Paul Nurse. The two universities have joined the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust and UCL to create the world-leading biomedical research institute in central London. Accelerating discoveries made in the laboratory into the clinic is a core focus of the Institute.

Cyber War may not happen

Cyber war, long considered by many experts within the defence establishment to be a significant threat, may never take place according to Dr Thomas Rid from the Department of War Studies. In a paper published in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Dr Rid argues that cyber warfare has never taken place, nor is it currently doing so and it is unlikely to take place in the future. He said: "The threat intuitively makes sense: almost everybody has an iPhone, an email address and a Facebook account. We feel vulnerable to cyber attack every day. Cyberwar seems the logical next step. However, Dr Rid states that to constitute cyber warfare an action must be a potentially lethal, instrumental and political act of force, conducted through the use of software. No single cyber attack has ever been classed as such and no act alone has ever constituted an act of war. 'Politically motivated cyber attacks are simply a more sophisticated version of activities that have always occurred within warfare: sabotage, espionage and subversion,' he concludes.

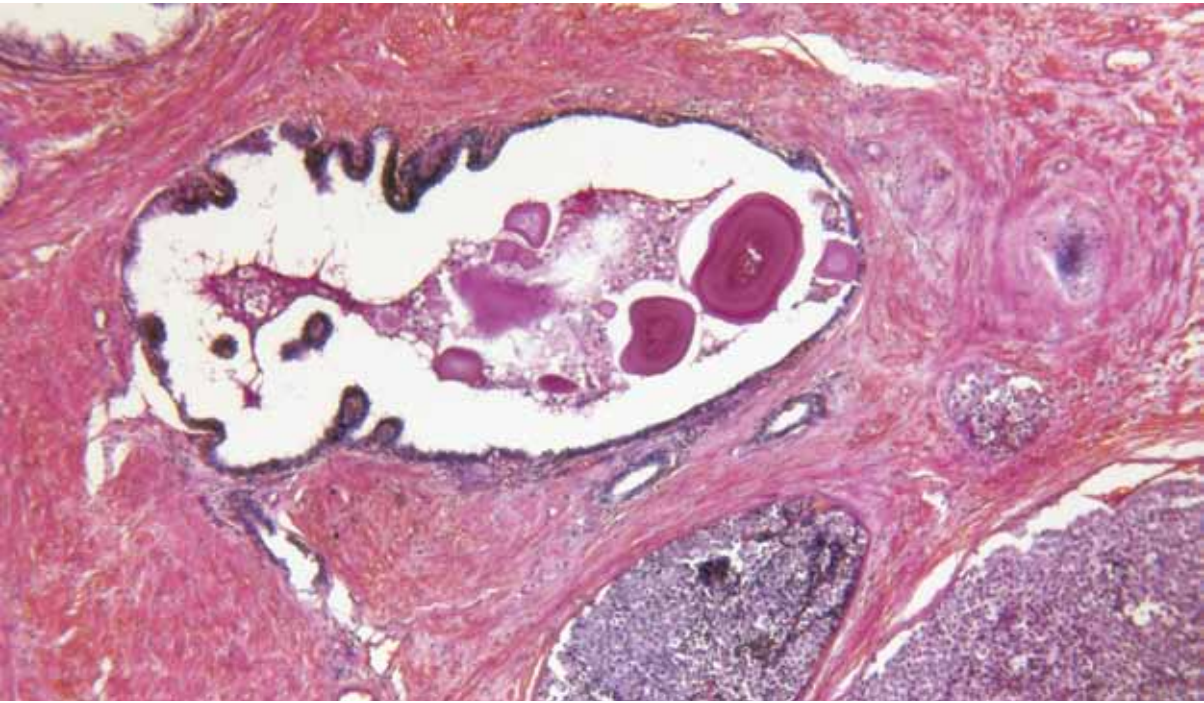


New genetic risk factors for mental health

Two genome-wide studies involving over 50,000 participants have identified new genetic risk factors for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Conducted by over 250 scientists from 20 countries, they are among the largest collaborative efforts in psychiatry to date. The research also revealed three gene locations implicated in both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, confirming the genetic overlap between the two conditions. "These are the most powerful genetic studies of psychosis to date and have enabled us to identify a host of new genetic risk factors," says Professor David Collier from the Institute of Psychiatry. "These include one gene, a "micro RNA", which may be acting as a master regulator, influencing the biological pathways in the brain, which, once perturbed, lead to schizophrenia." Understanding the biology of these disorders is important in designing new therapeutic drugs targeting brain molecules involved in psychosis.

The global challenge of cancer

Cancer experts from around the world, led by Professor Richard Sullivan from the King's Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre, advised that 'a radical shift in cancer policy is required' as they presented the findings of the first ever *Lancet* Oncology Commission on the cost of cancer care to the 2011 European Multidisciplinary Cancer Congress. Speaking at the congress in Stockholm last October, Professor Sullivan said: 'We are at a crossroads for affordable cancer care, where our choices – or refusal to make choices – will affect the lives of millions of people. Do we bury our heads in the sand, or do we have difficult debates and make hard choices within a socially responsible, cost-effective and sustainable framework? The consensus from all those involved is that policy makers, politicians, patients and health care professionals need to address this issue now.' Cancer affects 12 million new patients each year and with an ageing global population, an endless conveyor belt of expensive new drugs and technologies and increasing financial pressures, the cost of cancer care in high-income countries is becoming unsustainable. The report highlighted issues including the huge development costs for new cancer medicines as well as over-use, rapid expansion of demand, and shortening life cycles of medical technologies.



At the cross-roads of affordable cancer care: King's Health Partners cancer experts call for a radical shift in cancer policy

King's makes commercial opportunities easier

In June this year, King's announced a new portfolio of intellectual property (IP) under Easy Access IP – a bold initiative that offers university IP licences for free using quick and simple agreements. This makes it easy for companies to obtain more IP and put it to use. The aim of Easy Access IP is to make it easier for industry to work with universities, reducing barriers and accelerating the transfer of university knowledge to the best commercial partner who can develop it to benefit the economy and society. King's is a founding partner of the Easy Access Innovation partnership that is behind this initiative, together with the universities of Glasgow and Bristol. While King's will continue to offer commercial opportunities through traditional licensing methods, the Easy Access IP portfolio features opportunities which, although they have inherent value, are difficult to commercialise through traditional means. Since the launch of Easy Access IP, the partner universities have been promoting the initiative through networks and at industry events. At the Technology Strategy Board's annual 'Innovate' event, it was standing room only for the Easy Access IP seminar, which received an enthusiastic reception from industry and university representatives. Already, international partners have been recruited to spearhead the concept in North America, Australasia and on mainland Europe. A significant number of universities in the UK have also expressed interest in adopting the principles. The Easy Access IP initiative is set to continue growing, with a new website launched by the partnership (www.easyaccessip.org.uk) and an exclusive Easy Access Innovation Summit being held in February 2012. With the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor and the Vice-Chancellors from Glasgow and Bristol in attendance, the summit will bring together senior leaders from UK businesses and senior policy officials in higher education to discuss the future of business-university engagement. Opened by the Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister of State for Universities and Science, it will be an opportunity to develop new thinking in how business and universities can work together to stimulate innovation.



New widening participation programme in dentistry

King's has launched its Enhanced Support Dentistry Programme (ESDP) to give talented students from any background the opportunity to embark on a career in dentistry. The programme is designed to provide additional support to exceptionally able students who would like to enrol on the five-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) course at King's, but believe they would be excluded because they anticipate not doing well at A level. The programme begins in September 2012 with 20 places available. Recruitment efforts will initially target non-selective state schools in the Greater London, Kent and Medway areas but the programme will be open to all students who meet the entry criteria. Students will receive exactly the same qualification as their peers on the regular BDS course, and will have undertaken the same assessments. But students on the ESDP will be given more academic and pastoral support for the duration of the BDS programme, as well as additional financial support.

Centre stage for cultural partners



Deborah Bull will lead the cross-disciplinary teaching and research initiative King's Cultural Partners

King's is pleased to announce that Deborah Bull has accepted the newly created role of Director, King's Cultural Partners, and will join the College in March 2012. Deborah Bull brings to King's extensive experience of, and significant success within, the arts. Following a 20-year career with the Royal Ballet in which she rose through the ranks to perform leading roles across the repertoire, she joined the executive team of the Royal Opera House to establish ROH2, a programme of artist and art form development initiatives with innovation, creativity and partnership at its heart. Since 2008, she has been Creative Director of the Royal Opera House. King's Cultural Partners is a cross-disciplinary teaching and research initiative with innovative collaboration across the cultural sector at its heart. As Director, Deborah Bull will provide leadership across the College in extending its range of collaborative activities with the cultural and creative industries.

News in brief

Take a virtual tour of King's
A new virtual tour of King's is now available online, providing 360 degree panoramic photographs of 38 locations around the London campuses. The new tour provides interactive views, closely integrated with Google maps, that offer potential students and visitors an opportunity to experience some of King's central London locations and buildings without having to visit in person. The panoramas are made using Flash technology, and versions that work on iPhone and iPads are in development. You can take the virtual tour at www.kcl.ac.uk/virtualtour/overview.aspx.



The Atrium, Franklin-Wilkins Building

Design award for the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery
The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery has won a design award from the Design Business Association (DBA) for their 2010-11 recruitment advertising campaign. The new campaign, which was developed in partnership with 999 Design, drew upon the strong emotions associated with the nursing and midwifery profession. The design was used across a suite of digital and print adverts. The School's campaign was entered in the interactive and digital media category of the awards. The award ceremony will be held on 16 February 2012, when the School will find out whether they have won gold, silver or bronze in their category.

Modern Language Centre's Festival of Learning
A celebration of language and cultural training at King's highlighted the social and professional benefits of language learning. The Festival of Languages, held by the Modern Language Centre last term, gave staff, students and clients the opportunity to practise their skills in multi-cultural workshops, engage with language specialists and take part in a cultural quiz. Speakers from the fields of diplomacy, medicine and research explained how language learning had enhanced their working and personal lives.

JP Morgan Managing Director Tom Keatinge returns to university

Tom Keatinge, Managing Director at leading financial services firm JP Morgan, has taken a sabbatical year from his international role to study for a master's in Intelligence & International Security in the Department of War Studies.

Business leader Tom joined the finance firm shortly after he graduated from Durham in 1994, where he studied for a BA in Modern Languages and has since travelled the world extensively. He now visits the Maughan Library to brush up on his essay techniques instead of jet-setting to international meetings.

Even though Tom still keeps his finger on the pulse at JP Morgan, he says he is 'enjoying the pace of life as a student', attending various public lectures at the College and benefitting from other opportunities open to King's postgraduate students. He said: 'I'm taking advantage of my student membership at Chatham House and the other opportunities in London that are associated with my course. It would be very easy to like the student life too much.'

Tom explained that early one morning on the Eurostar to Brussels, he started talking to a girl seated next to him, who had recently graduated from the War Studies Department. He explained: 'She raved about the department and the courses, and inspired me to research what was on offer. It was only when I was stranded in Tokyo airport by the snow at Heathrow airport last winter that I began to surf the King's website, noting the various programmes and modules which matched my interests perfectly.'

Tom grabbed the opportunity to study at King's to develop his intellectual passion, and his course provides a chance to answer questions he gathered while overseas. Tom has worked extensively in Russia and the former Soviet Republics and has travelled from Indochina to the Middle East, witnessing the aftermaths of momentous events in world history and observing the growing influence of China.

He said: 'For me, this course gives a great opportunity to study much of what I have experienced. I am learning how the events of today ferment the developments and actions of the future and how the course of history can be changed by predictive analysis and actions today. Studying this master's has given me the opportunity to look at things from a different perspective.'

'The master's might inform my professional career in a number of ways. The course will expand my cultural, social and historical awareness and help me to understand the modern history that has shaped the countries I have travelled to with my job. Having a feel for how history and contemporary events might combine to influence the future is



Tom Keatinge is taking a sabbatical from his global business role to study MA Intelligence & International Security in the Department of War Studies at King's

an important insight I can bring to my work.'

Commenting on how university life and academia has changed since studying for his undergraduate degree, Tom said: 'Studying has changed beyond all recognition. Now there is an infinite amount

of research students can do. At JP Morgan I have my own research team, so I'm finding it quite a challenge!'

In his spare time, Tom is actively involved with the Young Vic Theatre in Southwark. He is part of their Development Council and has

helped to rebuild their fundraising campaign. Tom commented: 'Years ago, I got the chance to be an Olivier Award judge in the West End, which was a great experience.'

Tom added: 'So far, King's has surpassed my expectations in terms of the breadth of study opportunity

and I've met such a range of people, from someone who has worked in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office for 18 years to a retired officer from the Pakistan Army. Learning from my fellow classmates is as rewarding as learning from the professors.'

Geographer writes for *National Geographic* about ocean conservation

Paige Rushbrook, a second-year Geographer and aspiring journalist, has had an article published in *National Geographic Kids* magazine featuring an interview with adventurer David de Rothschild and oceanographer Sylvia Earle about their recent expeditions and fieldwork.

Paige is an established member of the Geography Society at King's. The opportunity for her article came through a newly created mentoring scheme, YouYou, of which she is now an ambassador. YouYou aims to help young adults gain invaluable mentoring experience at top companies to develop career prospects and employment opportunities. As part of the scheme, Paige made a speech last summer about her opportunity to write for *National Geographic Kids* at a charity fundraiser alongside several celebrities.

Describing the content of the article, Paige explained: 'It's about inspiring kids to be ocean defenders; outlining problems that we face in our oceans such as depletion of fish resources, but also suggesting solutions.'

'For the article I interviewed both Sylvia Earle, an American oceanographer and David de Rothschild, a British adventurer and environmentalist, to get their views on oceanography.'

'David had recently come back from a unique expedition called "Plastiki" where he sailed around the world on plastic bottles – I was very keen to interview him about that trip. Sylvia has been on over 50 underwater expeditions and spent over 6,000 hours underwater doing deep sea dives. She has discovered many new marine species and set a lot of diving records – she was very inspirational.'

Paige's article will also be published in other language editions of *National Geographic Kids* worldwide. She commented: 'It has been such an amazing opportunity. It's a great feeling that over a million children will read my article and hopefully I will inspire them in some way.'



Paige Rushbrook hopes to inspire young people to conserve our oceans

KCL Radio wins award with their first live broadcast

The student radio station, KCL Radio, has won a Student Radio Association award for 'Best Live Event'.

The winning coverage was of the London Varsity rugby match between King's and UCL in 2010, the radio station's first ever live broadcast. Industry professionals commented that the audio was 'made by students, for students' and was 'technically impressive and full of colour and excitement'.

Fran Allfrey, Vice President of Student Media & Engagement and last year's station manager, commented: 'It feels so brilliant to know that industry professionals took notice of our entry. The atmosphere was great and we met some really exciting people at the event.'

Station Manager Freya Pascall said: 'It's a huge achievement: a testament to all the hard work put in by our members, and last year's committee who organised the broadcast.'

First year medic represents constituents in House of Commons

First year medical student and Member of UK Youth Parliament Kulvinder Lal attended a House of Commons debate in November, representing young people in her constituency of Hounslow.

The event was the third annual sitting of the UK Youth Parliament and marked the end of Parliament Week, increasing youth engagement with parliamentary democracy.

The Members of UK Youth Parliament debated a range of issues which had been voted on by over 65,000 young people, including public transport, graduate tax as an alternative to tuition fees, child poverty, school bullying and a greener future for Britain.

Kulvinder, a committed campaigner for Hounslow Youth Council working at local and national levels, was elected into the UK Youth Parliament in 2010 and represents 50,000 young people. She commented: 'It's great to be part of such a prestigious organisation with so many young people supporting my position. I bridge the communication gap

between Hounslow Council and young people in local communities. It is very exciting, but I have to make sure I'm on my toes.

'This position is such a fantastic opportunity and I love every minute. I learn new things every day. I would never find experiences like this anywhere else.'

The debate at the House of Commons was aired on BBC Parliament and broadcast into schools around the country. 'Walking through Westminster Hall into the chambers, I felt such a sense of history,' said Kulvinder. 'Thinking that this place has seen so many prime ministers and witnessed so many important decisions, I felt very honoured to be there to make a difference.'

'It was great being with 300 like-minded individuals who all have a keen interest in politics and they all want to make a difference to the people they represent. There was a great atmosphere. One MP even said that Members of Youth Parliament behave better than MPs.'

The event was attended by a



Faheem Ahmed uses medical science to raise awareness of gun and knife crime in London

Student leads violence awareness workshops with a twist

Second-year medic Faheem Ahmed is leading a project with charity Selfless, raising awareness of gun and knife crime in London with a medical twist.

Selfless, the brainchild of King's medical alumni, aims to support disadvantaged communities across the world in fulfilling rights to physical, mental and social wellbeing. The charity has many different international projects delivering a variety of promotional health workshops and Faheem has added to these with his secondary school-based workshops.

He said: 'My project started in the wake of the recent riots, and after witnessing the escalating figures of youth crime. I thought this needed to be addressed as there have been cuts to government spending on youth clubs and especially anti-gun

and knife crime initiatives. A greater dependence lies on the voluntary sector, and I thought that's where I could come in.

'As a medical student, I thought I would add a medical twist to our workshops. I present real case studies of gunshot and knife wound victims. I incorporate the legal, social, psychological and physical effects of gun and knife crime to teach teenagers what to do if they are ever caught in that situation.'

'My project is aimed at young people as it is much more effective if a young person is telling others about it, and can relate to them. It inspires young people to get involved with charitable projects and gets them into the spirit of giving back to the community. Being at King's I feel in such a privileged position, that I want to give something back.'



UK Youth Parliament member Kulvinder Lal spoke to Labour leader Ed Miliband



Profile

Maxine Taylor

Maxine Taylor joined King’s as Director of External Relations in July 2011

Where did you work before this?

I have worked in a variety of organisations, ranging from the private sector – Eli Lilly (a major US pharmaceutical company) and Nationwide (the UK’s biggest mutual and a building society) – to the Cabinet Office. I was there working on policy when John Major was in power, and as part of this I ran the private office for Professor Sir William Stewart, John Major’s Chief Scientific Adviser, until he retired.

I have also spent about a third of my career to date in the voluntary sector, working for two of our major medical research charities – the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK. I served on the board of both charities with responsibility for marketing, communications, reputation management, campaigning and public affairs and public health policy. Other than that, I spent 10 years in communications consultancy early on in my career – latterly as founder member of my own consultancy, Consolidated Communications, with three other colleagues.

What does your current role involve?

I am still finding out. However, I have accountability for the External Relations Directorate, with overall ownership of the King’s brand, directing marketing and communications disciplines, including corporate communications, public affairs, public engagement and reputation management. I’m also accountable for study abroad and internships, summer schools, and professional and executive education through the work of Tayyeb Shah and his team.

What do you enjoy most?

The infinite variety of the job: the challenge of my brief, engaging with a fascinating and multi-faceted organisation and its people, including the students, and the fun of working for a great global institution. All this instils a real sense of pride to be part of King’s. It also offers the opportunity to bring together skills

I’ve gained across a number of years in my other roles, from government to industry, to charitable bodies, as well as much focus on science and healthcare, where I have spent more than 50 per cent of my career.

What is your proudest work achievement?

Definitely leading the charge at Cancer Research UK to drive the introduction of the Smoking Ban. I set up a campaigns team there when I was Executive Director of Policy and Communications, and in the last three weeks alone before the Private Members’ Bill vote, we lobbied 300 MPs about smoking in private members’ clubs. We ended up winning this bit of the battle with a substantial majority. It was terrific to have played a small part in the final stages of a 25-year campaign and one of the greatest advances in public health we have seen for a long time in the UK.

What do you see as your next particular challenge?

Getting to know the King’s culture and its many people – and getting on top of my brief.

Favourite holiday destination?

Difficult to choose, but either Vietnam or Cambodia – despite their tragic recent histories, they face a fascinating future as they rebuild. The people were unfailingly polite and warm in extending hospitality, the cuisine is wonderful, and both countries offer travellers fascinating things to see from Angkor Wat in Cambodia to Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum in Vietnam.

Book on your bedside table?

Several, which I’m not getting a minute to finish. Edmund de Waal’s *The Hare with Amber Eyes* is the one I should finish first: it’s all about an amazing collection of netsuke that he inherited from an uncle in Japan, which inspired him to research his fascinating ancestry. Bit of a difference from being a world class ceramicist but he makes the transition to writer very easily.



Maxine Taylor

2011 King’s Awards celebrated

The excellence and innovation of staff and students was marked with the presentation of the 2011 King’s Awards in September. Lifetime achievement awards went to Professor Tak Lee of the School of Medicine and Professor Linda Newson of the School of Social

Science & Public Policy.

During the awards reception, held in the Weston Room at the Maughan Library, Professor Newson, who has worked at the College for over four decades, paid tribute to the contributions from colleagues, students, families and friends. ‘King’s remains such a centre of creativity and innovation,’ she said.

Other winners are: Contribution to Student Experience Award – Ryan Wain, President of King’s College London Students’

Union 2009-11

- Excellence and Innovation in the Arts Award – Dr Hannah Crawford, School of Arts & Humanities
- ICT Award – Dr Michael Escudier, Dental Institute
- Innovation and Impact Award – Professor Phil Chowienczyk, School of Medicine
- Innovative Teacher of the Year – Dr Lea Ann Dailey and Professor Jayne Lawrence, School of Biomedical Sciences
- International Collaboration of the

Year Award – Professor Raman Bedi, Dental Institute

- Investigator of the Year – Professor Juan Burrone, School of Biomedical Sciences
- Media Personality of the Year – Professor Madawi Al-Rasheed, School of Arts & Humanities
- Outreach and Widening Participation Award – Bill Edwards, Curator, the Gordon Museum; Dr Gill Sales, Acting Curator, Life Sciences Museum; Dr Julie Keeble, School of Biomedical Sciences

- Principal’s Award – Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team
- Public Engagement Award – Dr Mark Miodownik, School of Natural & Mathematical Sciences
- Research Project of the Year – Professor David Carpenter, School of Arts & Humanities
- Supervisory Excellence Award – Professor Francesca Happé, Institute of Psychiatry
- Helen Hudson Awards – His Honour John Toulmin and Mary Hardy (Spanish & French, 1975).

Deans’ portraits unveiled



Three former deans of the Institute of Psychiatry saw their portraits unveiled at a special ceremony in October. Professor Sir Robin Murray (Dean 1982-9), Professor George

Szmukler (2001-6) and Professor Peter McGuffin (2007 to 2009) received tributes at the event in front of colleagues, alumni, friends and guests at the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Denmark Hill

Campus. Dean and Head of School Professor Shitij Kapur (far right) said: ‘The portraits capture not only the likeness of the person, but their personality, and the three deans

we remember today have made a tremendous difference to the field, to IoP and to King’s, and will be fondly remembered for their many contributions.’

Honorary doctorates awarded

The UK’s first woman Chief Medical Officer; an internationally distinguished computational scientist; a world leader in oral science; a renowned social anthropologist, and a pioneer in cancer research and surgery have all received honorary doctorates from King’s.

The new honorary doctors, who have all demonstrated an outstanding academic contribution to their field, had the honour bestowed on them by the Chairman of Council, the Marquess of Douro, and the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, at the College’s Honorary Degree Ceremony on 3 November at the Strand Campus. The recipients are:

Professor Dame Sally Davies, the UK Government’s Chief Medical Officer and professional head of all public health staff in England;

Professor Michele Parrinello, the computational scientist renowned for the development of the Car-Parrinello method;

Professor John W Stamm, Dean of the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and an international figure in oral and dental science;

Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, internationally renowned social anthropologist and former Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge;

Professor Umberto Veronesi, an internationally recognised leader in academic cancer research, surgery and the education and training of oncologists.

Since 2008, King’s has awarded its own honorary degrees under degree-awarding powers granted by the Privy Council.



The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor (far left, seated) and Lord Douro (far right, seated) with the College’s new honorary doctors

News in brief

American senator gains honorary degree from King’s

The American senator central to the Northern Ireland peace process has received an honorary doctorate. Senator George Mitchell, former US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, received the doctorate in October in the Great Hall, when he gave a public lecture on his experiences negotiating conflict resolution in divided societies.

The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, said: ‘King’s is delighted to have awarded an honorary degree to Senator George Mitchell, who has been a conciliatory and progressive force in arenas as different as the United States Senate, Northern Ireland and the Middle East. The degree is highly appropriate because Senator Mitchell’s concern with conflict resolution resonates with much academic activity at King’s.’



King’s launches alumni branch in Mumbai



Links between King’s and India strengthen

King’s launched its first alumni branch in Mumbai at the beginning of October to celebrate its growing connections with one of India’s most dynamic cities and reach out to its Indian alumni.

Professor Keith Hoggart, Vice-Principal (Arts & Sciences), officially opened the new alumni branch commenting: ‘I am absolutely delighted that we’re starting an alumni group in Mumbai; it means we can bring together not only existing faculty and students but also alumni across the region who want to remain part of the wider King’s community.’

King’s currently has about 700 alumni in India, and the number of Indian students at the College is growing rapidly. With the launch of the India Institute in January 2012, King’s aims to enhance its strategic relationship with India.

Focus

Department of English

King’s has one of the country’s oldest departments of English. It is now undergoing an ambitious programme of expansion.

The Department has a proud history. Teachers and students in the early years included George MacDonald, Sir Israel Gollancz, John Ruskin and WS Gilbert. Today its activities reflect both its long established traditions and its equally strong commitment to innovation and change. Research and teaching cover a broad chronological range from Anglo-Saxon to the present, with wide geographical and cultural reach, a diversity of critical approaches and interdisciplinary themes, and a distinctive programme of collaborations with outside partners.

Despite its distinguished history, in recent years King’s had become one of the smallest English departments in the UK, submitting only 20 people for RAE 2008 compared with major departments of between 40 and 80 elsewhere. ‘Expanding to 40 staff will allow us to compete at national level in research terms,’ explains Professor Jo McDonagh, Head of the Department. ‘Our programmes are very popular with students. Applications for our two BA courses – English, and English with Film – have run at around 20 per place. This year our first-year BA intake grew from around 90 to 160, and MA numbers to around 130. We also have more than 100 PhD students in the Department. As numbers increase we will work hard to preserve the friendly culture of the Department, and to make sure that we can still get to know our students well.’ Last year the Department identified a number of areas in which to focus expansion. One of these is literature’s relations to material and visual culture. Patrick Wright, the well-known cultural historian, has been appointed to lead this development. His work on heritage, especially *On Living in an Old Country* (1985), has been highly influential in defining a whole field of study. In July 2012 he will be joined by Dr Santanu Das, currently recipient of a prestigious Philip Leverhulme



Research and teaching in the Department of English has wide geographical and cultural reach

prize, and known for his book *Touch and Intimacy in First World War Literature* (2005). ‘Another area is postcolonial and transnational literature,’ Professor McDonagh says. ‘Besides British and Irish writing, we already teach and research Anglophone literature from North America, Australia, the Caribbean and South Asia. Joint posts with the programme in Comparative Literature will enable us to expand our range.

Professor Javed Majeed, who joins us in January as Director of the Programme in Comparative Literature, will enhance our work in South Asian literature.’ Dr Jane Elliott, Senior Lecturer in Late 20th & 21st Century Literary and Cultural Studies, leads expansion in contemporary literature. The Department has also appointed its first professor of creative writing, the award-winning novelist and critic Andrew O’Hagan.

News in brief

Archbishop Tutu’s 80th birthday honour

One of King’s best-loved alumni, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, returned in October to celebrate his 80th birthday. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, was among former principals, colleagues, fellows, alumni and other guests who gathered for a dinner at the College’s Strand Campus to honour the Nobel Peace Laureate and former Archbishop of Cape Town. Archbishop Tutu took his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theology at King’s in the 1960s. He later taught at King’s as Professor in Post-Conflict Societies. ‘I credit King’s with enabling me to have returned to South Africa with a far greater, proper self-confidence,’ the Archbishop said at the dinner.



Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

What next for the US?

Is America still a safe investment? That was the question posed to 100 King’s alumni, donors, prospective students and friends by Sir Deryck Maughan, distinguished alumnus and principal benefactor of the College’s Maughan Library, at the Yale Club in New York. He was speaking in October as part of the World questions|King’s *answers* campaign alumni events that took place across the east coast of America. Drawing on his wealth of experience in the financial world, Sir Deryck addressed the many political and socio-economic factors impacting on the global financial landscape, and also spoke of his time at King’s, which he described as ‘transformative’.

Flashback

Life on Mars

Comment was launched in 1984 and is now nearing its 200th edition. A trawl through the staff magazines of 40 and 25 years ago shows what has (and has not) changed.

40 years ago:

- King’s had some 3,200 students
- the Strand Building came into use. It was described as ‘strictly functional’ with ‘a Spartan look about it’
- the *Evening Standard* was campaigning to ‘free’ Somerset House for public use by moving out the civil servants, opening up the River Terrace and moving the Tate Gallery’s collection of British art from Millbank
- work began on ‘the new stage IIa Building’ (later named the Macadam Building) in April 1972. It was hoped it would be ‘ready for occupation by January 1975’
- the College Computer Service, inaugurated in 1969, was in its third year. King’s had its own computer, a CDC 1700, used mainly to provide a link to the computers at the University of London Computer Service, which included ‘one of the largest and most powerful computers in the country, the CDC 7600’. The College’s Computer Unit had ‘a full-time Program Advisory Service to answer questions from “How do I start using this computer?” to “What is wrong with my program?”’
- the former Men’s, Women’s and Joint Senior Common Rooms were combined to form a single Senior Common Room. Women students still had their own separate common room, and the post of Tutor to Women Students (held by Dr Helen Hudson) continued until 1974
- a ‘long-awaited overhaul of College catering services’ took place, providing new hot meals which, ‘having been cooked at the caterer’s kitchens at Kew’, were ‘then quick frozen for distribution’ to King’s
- at the Aldwych Theatre the Royal Shakespeare Company was presenting *Henry VIII*, produced by Trevor Nunn, with a cast including Donald Sinden, Peggy Ashcroft and Michael Gambon; and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, with a cast including Ian Richardson, Helen Mirren, Patrick Stewart and Sebastian Shaw.

25 years ago:

- King’s, Queen Elizabeth and Chelsea colleges had merged on 1 August 1985 to form ‘KQC’. Professor Sutherland, who became Principal on 1 August 1985, explained that the ‘current strategy is to establish a central campus based on the Strand, Cornwall House and part of Somerset House. The Government have agreed in principle to make Cornwall House available and acquisition of parts of Somerset House remains a possibility’
- after the merger, there were 1,400 staff, of whom 523 were academic
- there were some 6,000 students, including around 800 from overseas
- a plan to merge the faculties of arts from King’s and Westfield colleges was rejected by the Westfield College Council
- the Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals described higher education funding prospects as ‘like a lingering and painful terminal illness’. King’s had a deficit of £663,000, and savings were planned through the non-replacement of staff vacancies
- the College’s Computer Centre now offered word-processing facilities on the College’s own computers. The College had ‘three separate mainframe machines (one incompatible with the other two)’ and offered ‘facilities such as electronic mail and file transfer between micros and mainframes’
- links between King’s and China included visits from five Chinese universities to the College’s departments of Physics, Physiology and Engineering; agreements of co-operation and exchange between King’s and Tianjin and Beijing Normal universities; and five scholarships a year for Chinese graduates to undertake research at King’s
- the average weekly cost for London students’ accommodation, food and fuel was £46.46.



Before *Comment*, King’s had a number of staff magazines including *King’s News* which on 10 December 1970 ran an article lamenting women’s ‘ugly fashion’

Media watch

Anti-doping

Professor David Cowan (pictured), Director of the Drug Control Centre which will run the anti-doping testing at the 2012 Olympics and



Paralympics, has warned that the Games will be the ‘riskiest yet’ for drug cheats. His comments were reported by Sky News, the *Independent*, the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*.

Saving Libya’s heritage

Following the end of the conflict in Libya, Dr Hafed Walda, Digital Humanities, gave multiple interviews about preserving the country’s heritage. He appeared on BBC Breakfast and the BBC World Service. His comments were reported by *AlArabiya*, the *Sunday*

Times and *Washington Post*.

Neuroimaging techniques

Dr Paola Dazzan and Professor Shitij Kapur, Institute of Psychiatry, spoke to BBC *Newsnight* about new developments in neuroimaging which are changing treatments for mental health.



The Devil’s chord

Using the organ at the College Chapel, Professor John Deathridge (pictured), Music, demonstrated the ‘devil’s chord’, heard in horror films, and explained its history to BBC’s *The One Show*.

Gold on glass

Professor Anatoly Zayats, Physics, has discovered a way of making glass more transparent using a thin layer of gold. His research was reported

in *Engineer* and *United Press International*.

Blood pressure cancer risk

Research by Dr Mieke Van Hemelrijck, Cancer Epidemiology Group, suggests high blood pressure is linked to an increased risk of developing cancer. The study was reported by ITV Daybreak and Huffington Post.

Time to talk

Research by Jane Ball from the National Nursing Research Unit, School of Nursing, found that nurses

lack time to carry out core care. The study was reported by the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mail*.

Health and safety review

Ragnar Löfstedt, Professor of Risk Management, recommended a suite of health and safety regulations be revoked in a review for Government. The review was reported by the *Sunday Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Financial Times*.

Breast cancer screening

Concerns about the national breast cancer screening programme were

raised by Professor Susan Bewley from the Division of Women’s Health. Her letter to the National Cancer Director was reported by BBC News, Channel 4 News, *The Times*, the *Independent* and the *Daily Telegraph*.

Romanian adoptees

Professor Sir Michael Rutter, Institute of Psychiatry, spoke to BBC Radio 4 for an *All in the Mind* special on his English Romanian adoptees research project, which looked at the impact of deprivation in early life on adopted children.

Chemistry at King’s

King’s has introduced a new degree, Chemistry with Biomedicine, and is forming a new Department of Chemistry. The news was reported by the *Times Higher Education* and Vice-

Principal Chris Mottershead (pictured) gave an interview to *Nature*.

Minimum wage care workers

Around 150,000 workers in the social care sector are paid less than the minimum wage, according to research by Dr Shereen Hussein from the Social Care Workforce Unit. The study was reported by BBC *Panorama*, BBC Radio 4, the *Guardian* and the *Daily Mirror*.

Tensions in Asia

With competition between

China and India in south east Asia growing, Dr Harsh Pant, Defence Studies, has been offering his analysis. His comments appeared in the *Japan Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time* and the *Economist*.

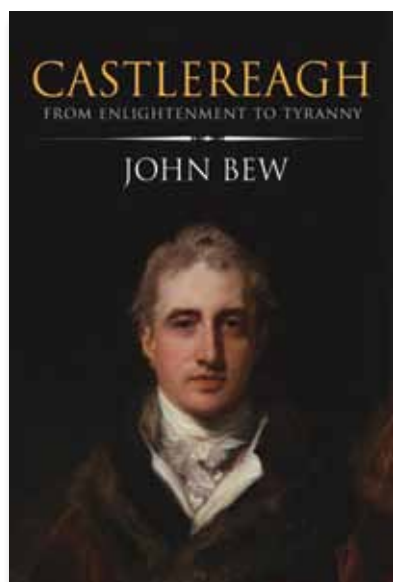
Healthy teeth

Fruit such as apples could be more damaging to your teeth than carbonated drinks, according to research led by Professor David Bartlett, Dental Institute. The study was reported by the *Mail on Sunday*, the *Sun* and the *Times of India*.

Books

For more news from around the College, visit OneSpace

ONESPACE.KCL.AC.UK

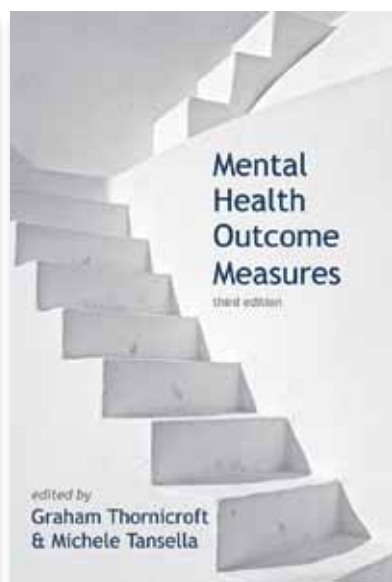


Castlereagh

Dr John Bew, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation & Political Violence

Lord Castlereagh imprisoned his former friends, abolished the Irish parliament, created the biggest British army in history and redrew the map of Europe. Yet at a time when the west is turning from idealism to realism in foreign policy, his reputation is being revived. John Bew tells the story of Castlereagh from the French revolution through the Irish rebellion, the Napoleonic wars, the diplomatic power struggles of 1814-5 and the mental breakdown that ended his life. He paints a magisterial portrait not only of his subject but the tumultuous times in which he lived.

Quercus, Legenda

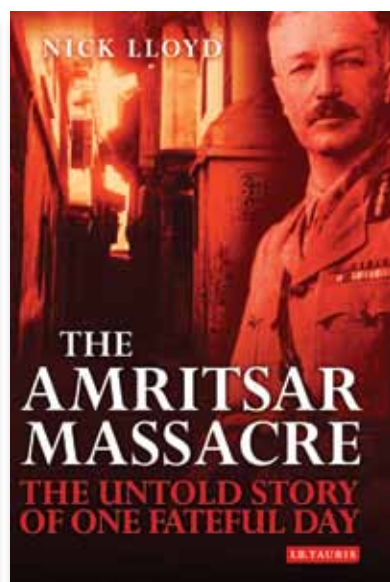


Mental Health Outcome Measures (3rd Edition)

Professor Graham Thornicroft, Institute of Psychiatry and Michele Tansella, University of Verona

Evidence-based medicine demands that clinical outcomes are measurable and practicable. Yet mental health outcomes have always been notoriously difficult to quantify. *Mental Health Outcome Measures* charts the increased range of outcome domains that are now measurable, while reflecting a new emphasis on positive outcomes and recovery, and the central role of the service user's experience. The book provides the building blocks for evidence-based service provision and evaluation.

RCPsych Publications

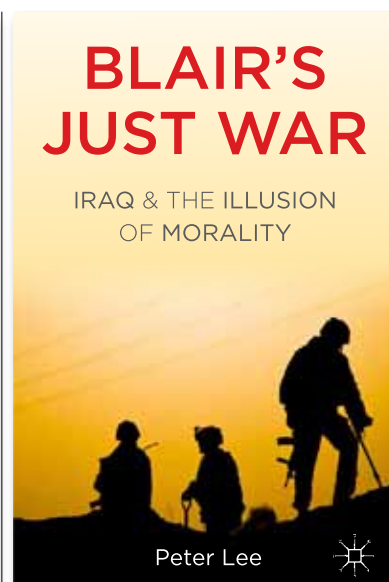


The Amritsar Massacre: The Untold Story of One Fateful Day

Dr Nick Lloyd, Defence Studies Department

On 13 April 1919 an event took place which was to define the last decades of the British Raj in India. Brigadier-General 'Rex' Dyer led a small party of soldiers into a walled garden in Amritsar and opened fire on the huge crowd gathered there, killing 379 and wounding 1,000 more. Nick Lloyd provides a highly readable account of the most infamous British atrocity in the history of the Raj, examining the historical context of the massacre and the anti-colonialism it provoked. Was the massacre an unfortunate mistake or a case of cold-blooded murder?

IB Tauris

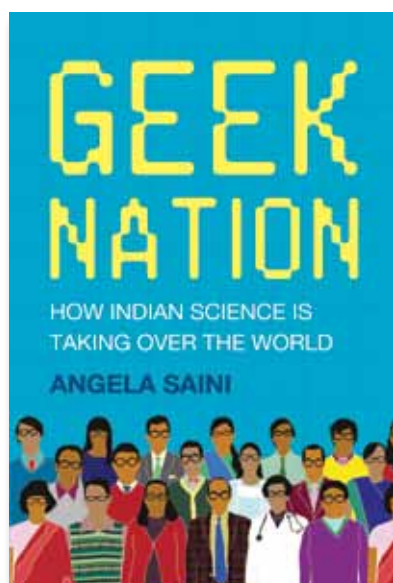


Blair's Just War: Iraq & the Illusion of Morality

Dr Peter Lee, Defence Studies Department

On 18 March 2003, Prime Minister Tony Blair stood in the House of Commons and opened the debate that would lead to military action against Iraq. Opposed by the UK's most senior international lawyers, Blair compensated by creating an illusory moral case. This book exposes that illusion of morality as Lee goes back to major historical just war writers – such as Augustine, Grotius, Vattel and Aquinas – and shows how key ideas can selectively be included or excluded to construct one's case.

Palgrave Macmillan

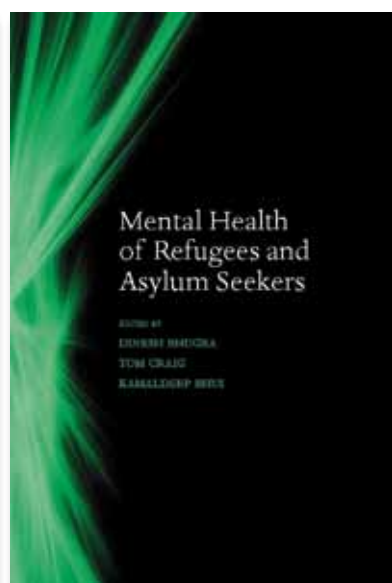


Geek Nation: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World

Angela Saini, Department of War Studies

Science journalist Angela Saini explores India's drive to become the world's next scientific superpower. Through first-hand reportage and penetrative analysis, the book examines topics from space and nuclear power to India's booming technology industry, exploring why the government of such a religious country has put its faith in research and technology. As a result, the book delves into the psyche of India's science-hungry citizens.

Hodder & Stoughton

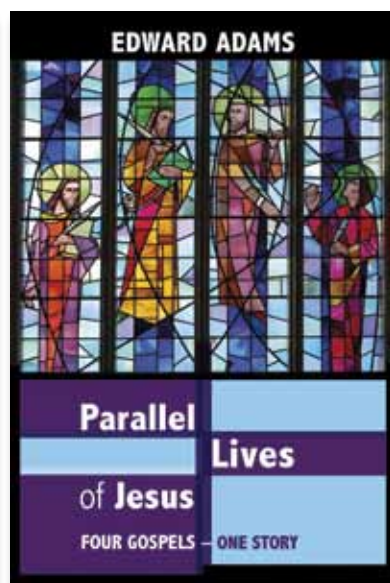


Mental Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Professor Dinesh Bhugra and Professor Tom Craig, Institute of Psychiatry, and Professor Kamaldeep Bhui, Queen Mary

This book, shortlisted for the 2011 British Medical Association Medical Book Awards, looks at the impact of migration on mental health, examining adjustment, collective trauma, individual identity and diagnostic fallacies. It includes a practical examination of cultural factors, ethnopsychopharmacology, therapeutic interaction, therapeutic expectation and psychotherapy.

Oxford University Press

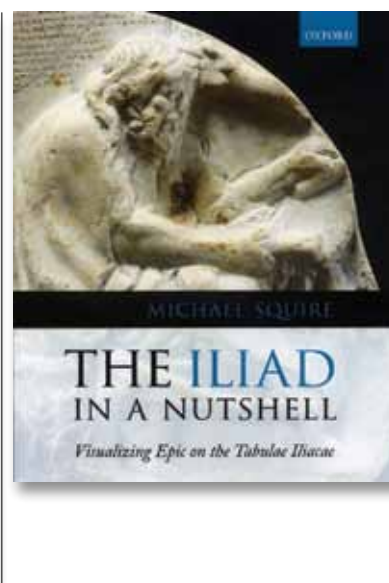


Parallel Lives of Jesus: Four Gospels, One Story

Dr Edward Adams, Department of Theology & Religious Studies

Each of the four canonical Gospels was composed in a different context, for different readers and listeners and with different theological concerns in mind. This book provides a detailed insight into the differing narratives and explains why they illuminate Jesus in their own particular way. Drawing upon his years of teaching on Jesus and the Gospels, the author provides an analysis of the four Gospels themselves and their various shared stories.

SPCK



The Iliad in a Nutshell: Visualising Epic on the Tabulae Iliacae

Dr Michael Squire, Department of Classics

The Tabulae Iliacae, or Iliac tablets, are a collection of 22 miniature marble reliefs from the early Roman Empire. All are inscribed in Greek, and most depict panoramic vistas of Greek epic. This book brings the tablets to life as never before, examining their purpose and functions. The analysis also relates the material to much larger issues about miniaturism, replication and visual-verbal interaction in both the ancient and modern worlds.

Oxford University Press

What's on

'Animals in the Strand: the elephant in the room'

Dr Christine Kenyon Jones
16 January 2012, 18.15 – 19.30
Anatomy Lecture Theatre, K6.29, Strand Campus

As part of the StrandLines lecture series, Dr Christine Kenyon Jones will look at the Strand from animals' points of view to throw new light on its history and character. This illustrated lecture explores the animals that lived and worked in the Strand, from menageries and mayhem to cattle and cab horses. RSVP to strandlines@kcl.ac.uk. Generously supported by King's Annual Fund.

The King's Greek Play: 8, 9 and 10 February 2012, Greenwood Theatre, Weston Street

This year's King's Greek Play, an annual tradition since 1953, will be Euripides's *Hecuba*. It will be performed in the original Greek as part of the University of London's Festival of Greek Drama. Director Roseanna Long has been involved in the King's Greek play as an actor and assistant director since her first year at university. 'The tradition of performing a Greek play in the original language was part of the attraction for me to study at King's in the Classics Department,' she says. 'I have chosen to stage *Hecuba* because I feel it will appeal to a contemporary audience.' Find out more at www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/classics/events/greek/index.aspx or email greekplay@kcl.ac.uk

Learning from Lister: Antisepsis, Safer Surgery and Global Health 22 – 24 March 2012

A multidisciplinary, multidimensional conference offering an opportunity for historians, surgeons, nurses, infectious disease experts, health service researchers and those interested in the development of hospital health policy, translational practices and hospital safety to discuss their respective approaches to understanding Lister's contribution to surgical and health care practice today. In association with the Royal Society and the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons. To register visit www.kcl.ac.uk/lister

Comment is the College's newsletter, edited by the Public Relations Department and designed by Esterson Associates. *Comment* is printed on paper that contains materials sourced from responsibly managed forests. Articles are welcomed from all members of the College. The Editor reserves the right to amend articles. Copy for the next issue can be sent to the Internal Communications team, Public Relations Department, James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus, or internalcommunications@kcl.ac.uk by 8 February 2012.