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KING'S  
College  
LONDON

# Comment

For staff, students & friends

Issue 197 | October 2011



Cutting-edge health and social care research carried out at King's will help provide patients with better access to ground-breaking medicines and treatments

## Biomedical research gets £112 million injection

Funding will bring scientific discoveries out of the laboratory and into the clinic

The Government has pledged over £112m of funding over the next five years to two National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs), and a new Biomedical Research Unit for Dementia at King's.

For the Specialist BRC for Mental Health in particular this represents an almost 50 percent increase in funding, demonstrating the emphasis the Government has placed on investing in the cutting-edge research carried out at King's in this important area.

The NIHR has identified dementia as a high priority clinical need, and

based on the College's research strength in this field, the Institute of Psychiatry has also been awarded £4.5m for a new Biomedical Research Unit focusing on dementia research, in partnership with South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Created in 2005, the BRCs aim to support researchers carrying out health and social care research, and provide patients with better access to ground-breaking medicines and treatments. With a strong focus on translational research – taking

advances in medical research out of the laboratory and into the clinic – the BRCs are external recognition of King's unparalleled translational research portfolio.

Announcing the award, Prime Minister David Cameron said: 'This unprecedented investment into the development of innovative medicines and treatments will have a huge impact on the care and services patients receive and will help develop the modern, world-class health service patients deserve.'

'A strong competitive science and research base is a crucial part of

securing sustainable economic growth and creating jobs of the future, and we have some of the best scientists and facilities in the world. This investment will help ensure we continue to be at the cutting edge.'

The BRCs at King's involve collaboration with all three partner NHS Trusts within King's Health Partners: Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The BRC at King's and Guy's and St Thomas' will receive £58.7m of

### Events

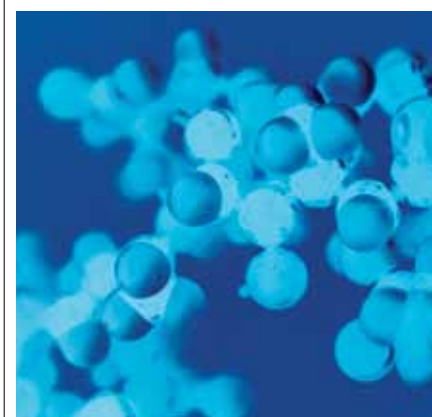
#### Celebrating Black History Month

14 October (18.00),  
The Great Hall, Strand Campus



#### King's International Lecture Series

From October, various venues,  
Guy's Campus



#### Collaborators

1 December (19.00), Anatomy  
Theatre & Museum, Strand



#### More information

For more details on these events,  
turn to page 12



## A word from the Principal



Dear staff and students, I hope you have enjoyed a pleasant summer break. A particular welcome to our new students – I hope you have settled in quickly to your academic schedule and are making the most of the activities offered by our Students' Union, KCLSU.

Much has happened over the summer months: during my break in the US, I was invited to attend a Presidents' Summit at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) as part of that institution's centenary celebrations. HKU is Hong Kong's oldest and most esteemed research university, and one of seven partners of King's Worldwide. In 2006, King's and HKU initiated a major partnership agreement and since then have developed collaborations, including a student exchange programme; 15 King's departments now have joint PhDs with HKU. It was a great privilege to be present at such an important event in the distinguished history of a key academic partner of King's.

In June the Office of Fair Access (OFFA) announced that the College's plans for funding and widening access set out in our Access Agreement had been accepted. This means that our proposal to charge £9,000 tuition fees, in reaction to huge reductions in Government grants for university teaching, for all *new* full-time UK/EU undergraduate students from September 2012, has been approved. Our planned financial support and outreach activities have also been agreed.

By 2014-15 when all three undergraduate year groups will be under the new fee system, we will be reinvesting 30 per cent of the additional fee income towards our widening participation initiatives and financial support packages. Such investment will total over £6 million in 2012-13 rising to £8 million per year by 2014-15.

In July, the Government published its long-awaited White Paper on higher education and confirmed that times of unprecedented change lie ahead, particularly in admissions arrangements. In the meantime, a great deal of work has been done at King's to ensure that we are in a strong position going forward to continue to attract the highest quality students, regardless of their backgrounds.

Another aspect of the College's plans is a series of steps to enhance the quality of the student experience. The Franklin-Wilkins Library has re-opened after an extensive refurbishment programme. I hope you will agree that the improvements to the learning environment and services have made a real difference. I wish you all the best for the new academic year.

**Rick Trainor, Principal**

# Graduate researchers benefit from enhanced support

## Improvements reflect the College's commitment to postgraduates

The College is committed to expanding the number of doctoral students, reflecting the important role they play in a research-intensive university such as King's, not only through their own research, but in their contribution to the research culture and the way in which they inspire undergraduates to consider a research career.

Academic Schools, the Marketing Department and the Graduate School have risen to this challenge and latest figures show that King's now has 2,222 doctoral researchers, a rise of 28 per cent since 2006-7. This compares to a nine per cent growth in the number of doctoral students registered at Russell Group universities nationally.

This is partly due to a diversification of the doctoral programmes on offer and an increase in the number of scholarships available. Some of these are funded by the College; others are financed by external bodies keen to invest in the exceptional talent that King's is able to attract.

The College is also working to enhance postgraduate student support services. King's is one of a few universities to offer a postgraduate-only careers advisor. The Researcher Development Programme provides over 300 training opportunities, and there are now two Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellows to advise on writing effective and persuasive theses.

In addition to free access to language courses, graduate researchers can apply for a travel grant for short trips to work with researchers in partner universities worldwide.

Recognising the importance of networking at international conferences, the Graduate School



New scholarships are funded by the College and external bodies keen to invest in the exceptional talent King's is able to attract

has launched what is proving to be a very popular Conference Attendance Fund to support selected students delivering papers. Facilities have also been enhanced,

with 'Graduate Lounges' for social purposes and computing available at every campus. Three of the libraries have 'Graduate Zones' for quiet study, one of which has recently doubled

in size under the modernisation project to transform Franklin-Wilkins Library, Waterloo Campus into a flexible, technology-rich environment.

## Biomedical research continued

1 funding over the next five years to carry out wide-ranging translational research.

Recent advances in research from the BRC include discovery of: a gene responsible for a condition which causes birth defects of the heart, limbs or blood vessels; a gene linked to possible causes of osteoporosis; and a new cell therapy to prevent organ rejection, which could remove the need for life-long medication and boost the longevity of a transplant for patients.

The Specialist BRC for Mental Health at the Institute of Psychiatry and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded more than £48m of funding.

The Centre brings together scientists, clinicians, mental health professionals, service users and carers, to improve clinical care and services across 10 mental

health research themes.

Recent successes from the Specialist BRC for Mental Health include: a brain scan which diagnoses adult autism; a novel blood test associated with early pathology in Alzheimer's disease; and an advanced computer



Ground-breaking research is carried out at King's

programme to detect the early signs of Alzheimer's disease. Researchers at the BRC became the first to use an advanced computer program to detect the early signs of Alzheimer's disease from a routine clinical brain scan. The new scan can return 85 per cent accurate diagnostic results in under 24 hours.

Principal Professor Rick Trainor, commented: 'I am delighted that we will receive renewed funding for our Biomedical Research Centres, as well as investment in a new Biomedical Research Unit for Dementia.'

'Ground-breaking research at King's is contributing significantly to cutting edge advances in medical science. King's is committed to driving programmes of research forward to bring scientific discoveries out of the laboratory and into the clinic to benefit patients at the earliest opportunity.'

Professor Robert Lechler, Executive Director King's Health Partners and Vice-Principal (Health), said:

'These awards are recognition of King's Health Partners' unparalleled translational research portfolio and reflect the research expertise and excellence fostered by the successful partnership between our NHS organisations and King's College London.'

'In particular, the increased award to our BRC for Mental Health, together with the new award of a Biomedical Research Unit in Dementia, celebrates King's Health Partners' progress in the integration of physical and mental health research and will help us achieve one of our main aims as a world-leading Academic Health Sciences Centre – to close the gap between physical and mental healthcare.'





# Coral holds key to new sunscreens

Researchers have discovered how coral produces natural sunscreen compounds to protect itself from damaging UV rays

Recent findings have led scientists to believe that compounds found in coral could form the basis of a new type of sunscreen for humans.

As part of a three-year project funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the King's team collected coral samples for analysis from the Great Barrier Reef, a collaboration with Dr Walter Dunlap from the Australian Institute for Marine Science and Professor Malcolm Shick from the University of Maine, USA.

Coral is an animal which has a unique symbiotic partnership with algae that live inside it – the algae use photosynthesis to make food for the coral and the coral waste products are used by the algae for photosynthesis. Because photosynthesis needs sunlight to work, corals must live in shallow water, which means they are vulnerable to sunburn.

Dr Paul Long, Senior Lecturer from the Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, who is leading the project, said: 'We already knew that coral and some algae can protect themselves from the harsh UV rays but, until now, we didn't know how.'

'Fish that feed on the coral also benefit from this sunscreen protection. This led us to believe that if we could



A compound created by algae living within coral provides a protective sunscreen which could be biosynthetically developed in laboratories

determine how this compound was created and passed on up the food chain, we could biosynthetically develop it in the laboratory to create a sunscreen for human use, perhaps in

the form of a tablet. We are expecting to test it within the next two years.'

The researchers also plan to see whether these processes could be used for developing sustainable agriculture

in the Third World, where natural sunscreen compounds could be used to produce UV-tolerant crop plants capable of withstanding harsh tropical UV light.

## News in brief

### Wanted: Your King's photos

The College invites staff to enter a photography competition celebrating the people, energy and creativity that characterise King's. The competition's theme – 'How is King's part of your world?' – is broad so entrants can be creative. Submissions are due by 11 November. Learn more at Alumni Online ([www.alumni.kcl.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.kcl.ac.uk)).



### Launch of new Law mentoring programme

The Alumni & Community Relations Office has launched a mentoring programme between law alumni volunteers and law students. The programme is a three-tier structure consisting of several groups, each comprising an alumni mentor, an alumni associate and two to three law student mentees. Mentees are likely to be invited to attend court hearings, gain work experience at law firms and attend networking events. The programme will run from November 2011 to April 2012.

### New Inflammation Research Centre

The Centre for Molecular & Cellular Biology of Inflammation at King's was officially opened in June by Peter Hewitt, Chief Executive of Guy's & St Thomas' Charity, and Professor Silman, Medical director of Arthritis Research UK.

The two charities funded the development of the Centre, which looks specifically at the biology of inflammatory diseases such as arthritis.

It will explore new avenues in the understanding and treatment of inflammation and its associated pathologies, developing and exploiting cutting-edge models and tools.

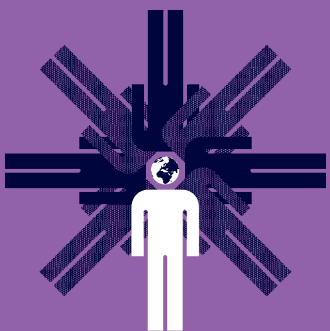
Professor Frederic Geissman, who heads up the Centre, gave an inaugural lecture to mark the occasion. He commented: 'I am excited about what we can achieve here. This is great news for science, for patients, and for the UK.'

Peter Hewitt of Guy's & St Thomas' Charity said: 'The Charity is pleased to have supported the creation of this Centre, which will focus on research into the pathogenesis of inflammation, with potential benefits to our local patients, and indeed globally.'

## How will we celebrate the King's campaign's first anniversary?

Join us for a programme of events to help celebrate the first anniversary of Campaign month. Our £500 million goal will bring together exceptional minds to make progress on complex issues by funding new academic posts and programmes, building new facilities and creating new student opportunities across our campuses.

From free lectures to festivals across our sites, there are many ways you can get involved. For more information please visit our website: [www.kcl.ac.uk/kingsanswers](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/kingsanswers) or email [eventsrsvp@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:eventsrsvp@kcl.ac.uk).



## Dental Institute wins innovation awards

The Dental Institute celebrated an impressive triple win at the prestigious Medical Futures Innovation Awards.

HapTEL, a new virtual-reality, haptic (sense-of-touch) 'dental chair' system, which aims to teach the next generation of dentists, won the 'Best Educational Innovation' in the Dental

& Oral Health Innovation category.

The innovation was developed by Professor Margaret Cox, Dr Jonathan P. San Diego and Dr Barry Quinn, and a team of over 24 clinicians, psychologists, sociologists and cyberneticists, including Professor William Harwin, Dr Alastair Barrow

and Brian Tse from the University of Reading.

Using a haptic dental drill and mirror to operate on virtual teeth shown in 3D on a screen, this system allows trainee dentists to reflect what would be seen in real life. The innovation will lead to other haptic applications such as therapy for stroke victims and educational aids for children with dyspraxia.

The hapTEL team also received the 'Special Award for the Best Educational Innovation'. This recognises an individual or team that has demonstrated an outstanding initiative that has made a positive impact in healthcare learning amongst students at every level.

The third award for 'Best Translational Research Innovation' in the Dental & Oral Health Innovation category was awarded to the team that developed 'Preventing cavities the SMART way', a topical gel placed around the teeth to prevent infection from the bacterium streptococcus mutans, the main cause of dental decay. The gel was developed by Professors Charles Kelly, Thomas Lehner and Raman Bedi, and Professor Julian Ma from St George's, University of London.

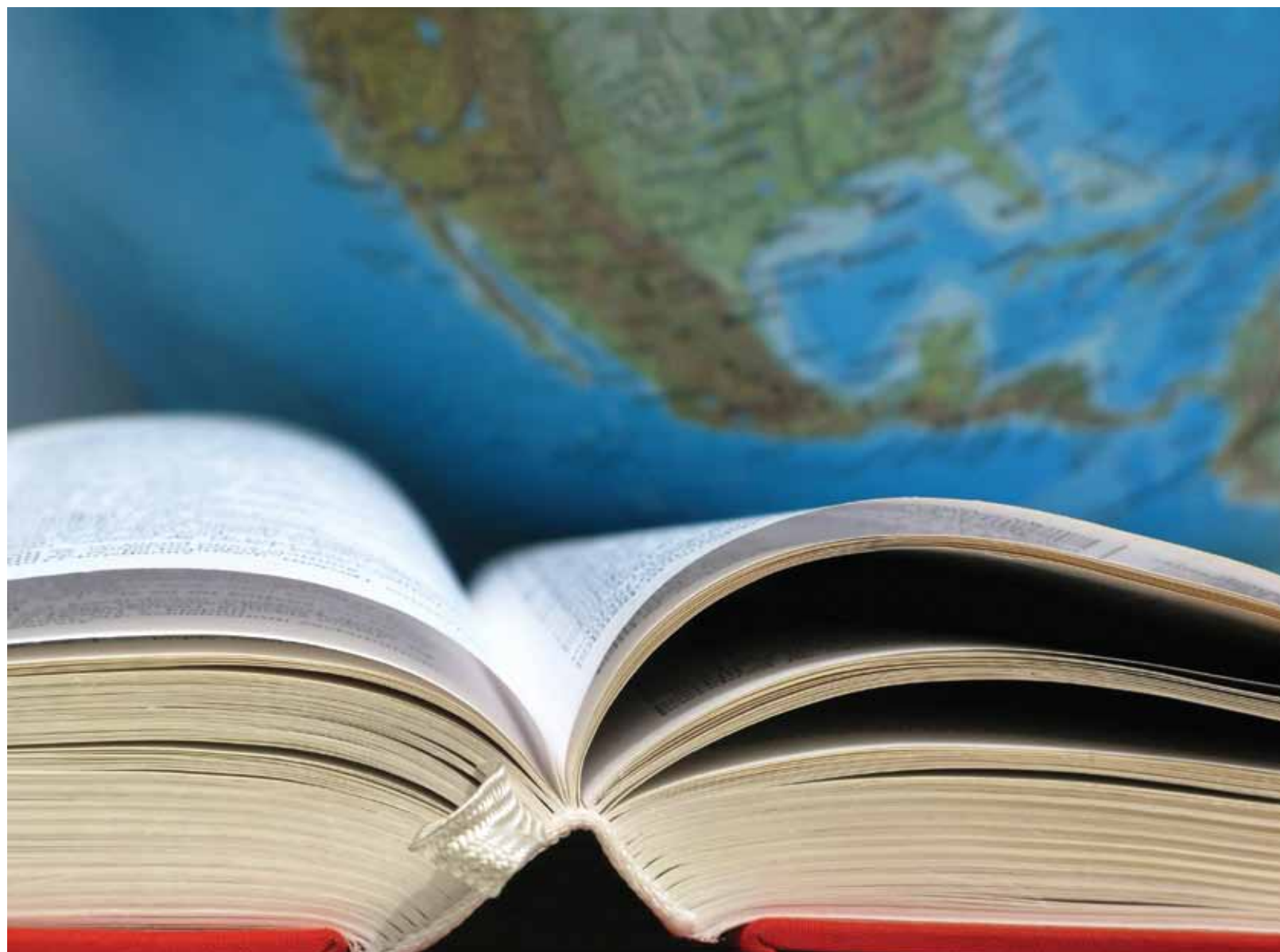


King's virtual reality sense-of-touch dental chair will help teach the next generation of dentists



## The global graduate

Go Global week helps students discover the value of studying abroad



King's students who partake in the Study Abroad Programme gain intercultural communication skills and increased employability

Hosted by the Study Abroad Office, Go Global week is an annual period of activities and events to enhance the international visibility of the College, whilst encouraging students and staff to develop links with, and gain experience from, College partners

abroad. King's has more than 150 partner institutions in 30 countries across five continents.

The first Go Global week in November 2010 helped to encourage more King's students to study abroad than ever before, and 2011 events are

set to continue this trend. The Study Abroad Office expects to receive significant delegations from major College Strategic Partners such as the National University of Singapore and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, amongst others.

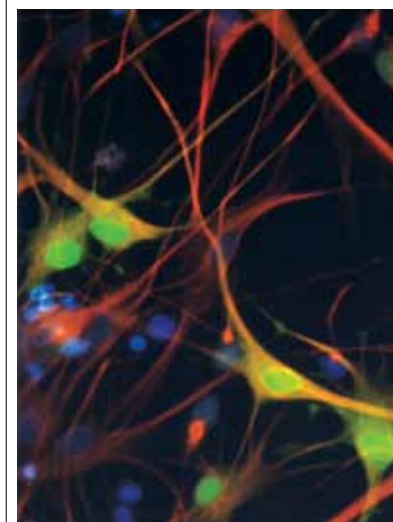
Go Global takes place in the week beginning 31 October, with the Study Abroad Fair on 1 November from 11.00 to 14.00 in the Great Hall, Strand Campus. Further information can be found at [www.kcl.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/studyabroad) throughout October.

## Cell research collaboration

King's is to open a Centre for Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine in January 2012. The Centre will be led by newly-appointed Professor Fiona Watt, former President of the International Society of Stem Cell Research. Professor Watt will co-ordinate existing stem cell research at King's and establish her own research programme.

The Centre, based at Guy's Hospital, will bring together stem cell research currently taking place across the College and its partner NHS trusts, as part of King's Health Partners. Through the Centre, King's will drive collaboration between scientists and clinicians to translate the potential of stem cells into clinical reality for patients.

Professor Robert Lechler, Executive Director of King's Health Partners, said: 'I am absolutely delighted to welcome Professor Watt to King's. As a world leader in stem cell research, she is internationally recognised as being highly influential in the field. As the use of stem cells in regenerative medicine is emerging as a key priority for research in the UK, I am excited about what we can achieve through the new Centre.'



Stem cells are used in regenerative medicine

## Henry VIII Fine Rolls project



On 24 and 25 June the Henry III Fine Rolls Project held its end of project conference. A reception in the Maughan Library was attended by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Neuberger (centre), one of England's most senior judges. Lord Neuberger praised the Project, funded by the Arts and

Humanities Research Council, and its Director David Carpenter, Professor of Medieval History (right). The office of Master of the Rolls goes back to the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), when the occupant was in charge of keeping the chancery rolls, of which the fine rolls were the earliest.

## King's and industry partners awarded biotechnology funding

Two recent funding awards have enabled new collaborative research between King's and key industry partners, Nestlé and Unilever.

Presented to King's in May, the Industry Interchange Award from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council is a first for the College and allows King's to work in collaboration with the Nestlé Research Centre (NRC) to understand the interactions between genes and ingredients in food, and how they can affect human health.

Dr Franca Fraternali and colleagues from the Randall Division of Cell & Molecular Biophysics are able to access the state-of-the-art bioinformatics facilities at NRC in Lausanne, Switzerland. Senior Researcher Dr James Holzwarth from NRC will also spend time in the King's

laboratories learning new techniques in the analysis of Protein-Protein Interaction data developed at the College.

The genes and their encoded proteins determine important functions for health, such as how efficiently we metabolise food, how we respond to the environment and how we detoxify our body from potentially harmful agents.

Over time, environmental factors can cause genetic variations and may lead to modified proteins, which can display an altered function. The goal of this research is to understand the possible impact of these alterations on human health, diet, exercise and other lifestyle factors.

In June, King's was awarded a three-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership worth nearly £250,000 by the Technology Strategy Board and Unilever to

investigate the effects of plant-derived food supplements on cardiovascular health. Lead King's academic Dr Richard Siow from the Cardiovascular Division and the British Heart Foundation Centre of Excellence, is working with colleagues Professors Phil Chowienzyk and Giovanni Mann.

Over the past decade, there has been a huge increase in public awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet, as well as consumer demand for 'super-foods' to beat heart disease and cancers, and to slow the ageing process.

There is still a need for rigorous scientific research to identify how plant-derived supplements in the diet work to reduce the risk of age-related diseases and for food companies to incorporate findings into consumer products. This major award will directly address these challenges.





# Babies tune in to human voices even when asleep

In a study published in the journal *Current Biology*, researchers from the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP) at King's have found that babies as young as three months can tune in to the sound of our voices and perceive different emotions, even when they are asleep.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), researchers took brain images of sleeping babies and discovered that special areas in the brain which process sound are more sensitive than previously thought. From very early on, these special areas respond differently to human and non-human sounds as well as positive, negative and neutral emotions.

The study was the result of a unique collaboration between experts in baby development at Birkbeck College, led by Professor Mark Johnson and leaders in brain imaging and neurodevelopment at the IoP, led by Professor Declan Murphy.

Principal Investigator Professor Declan Murphy, said: 'This discovery fundamentally advances our understanding of infant development. It has implications not only for how we view the impact of social environment on the infant brain, but for future research into how brain function and development relates to later difficulties in social communication.'

The researchers recorded brain responses while the three- to seven-month old sleeping babies were played emotionally neutral, positive or negative human sounds, such as coughing, sneezing, laughing or crying, or non-vocal environmental sounds such as toys or water. In another part of the brain involved in emotion processing in adults, the babies showed a marked increase in response to sad sounds as opposed to neutral ones.

The findings are consistent with earlier evidence that infants can extract subtle information from human speech. Newborns prefer to listen to their mother's voice and their mother tongue. Young infants also differentiate between the voices of men and women, children and adults.

This research in normally developing babies will help researchers see what happens to this particular brain region in babies that go on to develop disorders such as autism, or abnormal social behaviours, in which social communication is affected.

The research is funded by the Medical Research Council, the National Institute for Health Research, the Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and the College.



Sleeping babies respond to sounds around them and can extract subtle information from human speech

## News in brief

### Boris Johnson praises King's Inner London Latin Project

Boris Johnson gave a lecture at King's on 16 June on the importance of Classics in schools and praised King's students for helping to bring Latin to primary schools.

Mr Johnson has campaigned



Mayor of London Boris Johnson

extensively against the demise of Classics teaching and reaffirmed his belief that subjects such as Latin and ancient Greek should be accessible to all, and not remain the preserve of the elite few.

As part of the Inner London Latin Project, the Classics Department places King's students into disadvantaged primary schools to teach Latin. Students from the Department, who are given prior training ahead of their entry into the classroom, teach for one hour per week in underprivileged schools in socially-excluded boroughs of inner London.

Mr Johnson hailed the actions of King's students who are actively doing their bit to promote Classics teaching in the state sector through their outreach work with the Iris Project, of which Mr Johnson is a patron. In his lecture he reinforced the importance of Classics, saying: 'My message to you tonight is we've got to step up the fight. The barbarian hordes are all around us!'

### King's hosts international Bible conference

The Society of Biblical Literature held its international meeting at King's from 4-7 July, attended by nearly 1,000 academics and students from around the world. Organisers chose the UK to host the three-day conference because of its historical links to the King James Bible, the 400th anniversary of which has been celebrated throughout 2011.

Delegates were welcomed during the opening ceremony by Principal Professor Rick Trainor and Chairman of the College Council, the Marquess of Douro. The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu spoke about the role of the Bible, in particular the King James, in society. This was followed by a concert from the Chapel Choir, conducted by David Trendell, College Organist and Choir Director.

## King's at the Cheltenham Science Festival

In June, King's academics once again shared their expertise at *The Times* Cheltenham Science Festival. King's is the academic partner of the Festival, which this year sold 33,000 tickets. With an 18 per cent rise on last year, the festival is now the country's most popular public science event.

Dr Mark Miodownik from the Department of Physics and Professor Clive Page from Pharmaceutical Sciences explored the science of cannabis and its use in modern medicine.

Dr Mark Christie from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences spoke about the treatment of cardiac problems.

Others taking part included Professor Simon Wessely and Professor Edgar Jones from the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP), Zoe Laughlin, Curator of the Materials Library and Professor Stephanie Amiel from the Department of Diabetes.

Chris Coe, Director of Public Engagement at King's, commented: 'The Cheltenham Science Festival is a great way to engage large numbers of the public, from schoolchildren to pensioners, with a range of the College's research, underlining our mission to work "in the service of society."'

## Affirmation statement for graduate nurses

The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery hosted the first ever trial of a nurse's affirmation statement at its annual Leavers' event on 29 July.

The affirmation statement is an initiative led by the Nursing & Midwifery Council and aims to foster a sense of community, professionalism and dedication to best practice among nurses and midwives upon qualification. It was trialled at the

School's Leavers' event and spoken by an audience of 350 graduating nurses and academics from the School.

Following the trial at the School, and feedback received from our students and academics, it is hoped the affirmation statement will be adopted by nursing and midwifery schools across the UK for use at their graduation ceremonies from next year.



BSc nursing students celebrate their graduation at Guy's Campus

## Teenagers and maths

Teenagers are leaving school without the maths knowledge required for university or the workplace, an influential committee of maths teachers has warned.

Professor of Mathematics Alice Rogers and Professor of Mathematics Education Margaret Brown contributed to the Advisory Committee on Maths Education's (ACME) report, which said that maths A level and other post-16 qualifications were not preparing pupils enough to undertake university courses.

The report, 'Mathematical Needs: Mathematics in the Workplace and in Higher Education', found that in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, less than 19 per cent of the population takes maths beyond 16. The committee raised concerns about the number of students who did no maths between the end of their GCSEs and the start of their university courses or their first jobs.

The time lapse between last studying maths and entering the next stages in their careers often meant that they had forgotten much of what they had learnt up to the age of 16.



# Carnatic music charms Proms crowd

Hari Sivanesan, King’s alumnus and acclaimed South Indian musician, talks to *Comment* about his performances at this year’s BBC Proms

Hari Sivanesan is a Tamil musician and King’s alumnus. Born to Sri Lankan parents in London, he has recently shot to fame through his performances at this year’s BBC Proms. It is the first time in its 116-year history that The Proms has featured a Carnatic music performance: an ancient musical form with a shared Sri-Lankan Tamil and South Indian heritage, which Hari says he was drawn to in order to ‘get in touch with my roots.’

At the Proms, Hari performed alongside his mentor, the internationally acclaimed Carnatic singer Aruna Sairam, to whom he was introduced through BBC Radio 3’s World Routes Academy, of which he is a graduate. The Academy is a scheme which was founded to support outstanding young artists working in world music.

His performances have gained great critical acclaim, receiving five stars from the *Evening Standard* and four from the *Guardian*. When asked about this performance Hari said: ‘It was incredible! I felt really

*‘Through this music, a greater understanding of India, its spirituality and culture can be felt’*

privileged to be a part of it and to perform next to an artist of the calibre of Aruna. She’s an absolute inspiration both musically and as a person. I felt that I was representing Carnatic music, and introducing it further to Western society. South Indian music has always taken a back seat compared with North Indian music. It would be great if the person on the street was as familiar with a veena as they are with a sitar.’

Carnatic music, like all Indian art forms, is believed to have divine origin and is associated with Hindu gods and goddesses. The emphasis is on singing, and even when played on instruments, pieces are performed in a gāyaki – singing – style. In his performances Hari plays the veena, a four stringed instrument, dating back to 1500BC, which he calls the ‘mother’ of the well known sitar, though it has a very different texture and tone; a unique depth and grandeur. The music itself is also learnt in a traditional way, being passed down from Guru to student. Hari recognises the importance of this custom, saying: ‘My Guru is one of my biggest influences. This type of music is special, as through this lineage it has been kept alive and kept somewhat true to its original condition. I think through this music, a greater understanding of India, its spirituality and culture, can be felt as opposed to understood.’

Despite his age, Hari has had a long musical career, which includes



Before his music career, Hari studied Maths and Computer Science at King’s and was a student ambassador

working alongside former Beatle George Harrison on his 1997 *Chants of India* album, and he later performed at the memorial ‘Concert for George’ in 2002, which he cites as being one of the highlights of his career. Hari commented: ‘Just having a chance to see how he worked, his strive for perfection, was a great experience.’

On the *Chants of India* album, Hari also had the chance to work alongside the legendary Indian musician and sitarist Ravi Shankar, who personally selected Hari to work on the album whilst he was still a teenager. Hari commented on this, saying: ‘I was perhaps too young to appreciate it to its fullest. But working

with Pandit Ravi Shankar was a privilege.’

Before his musical career Hari studied Maths and Computer Science at King’s and was a student ambassador, representing the College at various student recruitment exhibitions and shows.

He looks back warmly to his time

at King’s, saying: ‘I loved the central location and the people I met there’. When asked about his future plans, he said: ‘I plan to take some time out and try and absorb a lot of what’s happened this past year.’

‘I think musicianship is for the most-part like wine, the longer it keeps, the better it is before it’s opened!’





## MTV opportunity opens door for intern

The Internships Office at King's has been established to further the College's strategic aims in employability and internationalisation. It offers students the opportunity to include an accredited domestic or international internship module as part of their degree across many programmes in Arts & Sciences through a selection of international partner institutions.

The office works closely with the College Careers Service, internship host organisations and academic departments, to offer a programme of ongoing support for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

A structured Internship Seminar Series is to commence in the 2011-2012 academic year, which will assist students in the development of graduate level skills, able to be applied more successfully in the professional working environment.

Camille Verniolle, a current Cultural and Creative Industries master's student, worked at the renowned music channel MTV as part of her modular course. Camille said: 'The best thing about the internship was my team. I felt comfortable asking questions and they really willed me to grow in the position and learn as much as I could about the industry. The working atmosphere was



Cultural and Creative Industries MA student Camille Verniolle secured an internship at global music channel MTV

relaxed, yet fast-paced. I had regular catch-ups with my manager and they outlined my strengths and areas to improve on. The team included me in meetings and creative briefings, which gave me a greater insight and I was encouraged to voice my own opinions. I also kept a blog to reflect on my internship experience.'

Camille obtained the six-month internship at the organisation after a series of interviews and received ongoing support from the Internships Office. She went on to say: 'The skills that I learned during the internship are the things you need beyond the academic world, which will no doubt help me in the future. Prior

to this internship, I felt that my CV was missing something. Now I can combine this experience with my academic achievements to create a much stronger profile of myself. I think that the internship opportunities that are available to King's students are very exciting and beneficial for their future work prospects.'

## Nursing School's first Thouron Scholar

A King's student has become the first nursing student at the College to be awarded a prestigious Thouron Award. David Bendell, who recently graduated from the BSc Adult Nursing degree at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, went through a competitive application and interview process to be offered the award.

The Thouron Award, established in 1960, offers a graduate exchange programme between British universities and the University of Pennsylvania. Successful British applicants receive support for up to two years for a postgraduate degree programme at the University.

Penn, an Ivy League institution, is one of the world's leading research universities.

In addition to receiving the Thouron Award, David is also the first Thouron scholar to attend the Nursing Science School at Penn. David started the two year Health Leadership master's programme in September this year.

## New Student Officer team for KCLSU

KCLSU welcomes the brand new Student Officer team. Starting their year in office in July, they spent their first month undertaking an intensive handover from the outgoing team. President Hannah Barlow and Vice Presidents Simi Smith (Academic Affairs), Holly Walsh (Activities & Facilities) and Fran Allfrey (Media & Engagement) have taken to their new roles with great enthusiasm and are looking forward to an interesting and exciting year. KCLSU would like to send a huge thanks to the outgoing team, Ryan, Emilie, Natasha and Kia, for all their hard and inspiring work over the last two years and extend our best wishes and luck to them all. Their enthusiasm for representation and improving the student experience at King's is to be commended and they will be missed by all.

The new Officer team officially took over the reins on 1 August and have already been setting out their

plans for the year ahead, meeting key College staff and working to represent students from across the College community.

Under the new leadership of Chief Executive Mo Wiltshire, KCLSU has also made significant changes to its staff structure in line with delivering the new organisational strategy for 2011-14. So far, the new team has taken an active role in planning events, developing ideas and ensuring the Welcome Period was the best it possibly could be.

The new KCLSU team is looking forward to strengthening partnerships with staff from across the College and welcomes any opportunity to meet with staff and to support development of the student experience within our Schools. To contact them, email [representation@kclsu.org](mailto:representation@kclsu.org).

Student ambassadors (left to right) Holly Walsh, Simi Smith, Hannah Barlow, Fran Allfrey



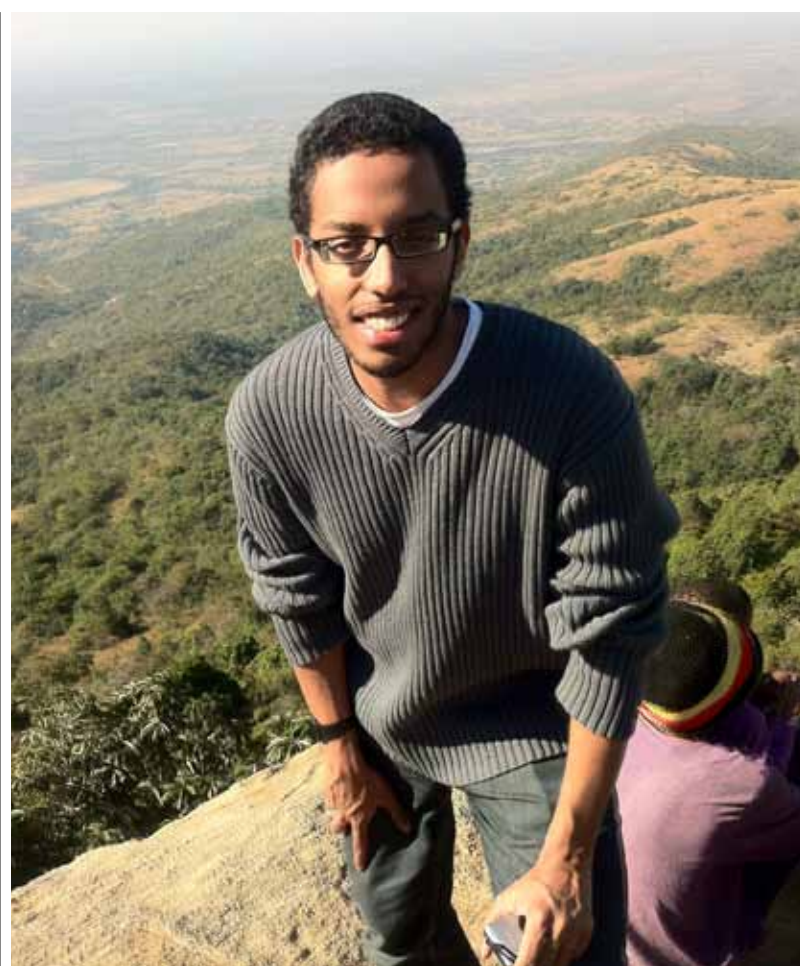
## Student medic takes his skills to Swaziland

Ammar Yusuf, a second year medical student volunteered to work in Mbane, Swaziland, as part of the new International Citizen Service (ICS). The ICS, funded by Department for International Development, was launched by Prime Minister David Cameron. It is an international volunteering scheme which offers young people the opportunity to make their own impact on poverty in countries such as Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Commenting on his first impressions of Swaziland, Ammar stated: 'It's a beautiful country with stunning terrain and the people of Swaziland are really welcoming and kind. The inequality in the country however is evident for all to see.'

While based at the Baylor Clinic in Swaziland, Ammar explained the project: 'We are working in a previously established Teen Club. The Club is to help teens (10-19 year olds) who are infected with HIV, to learn more about the virus, its treatments and how to prevent it. The impact it has had already is amazing. We consistently have over 100 teens coming to the Club. We offer them psychological support and activities for them to get involved in. You hear personal accounts of these kids, saying how they thought they were the only ones with HIV in the whole country, and it inspires and encourages them when they see others in the same shoes.'

The experience for Ammar has



Medical student Ammar Yusuf spent the summer helping Swaziland teenagers who are infected with HIV

been very humbling and incredibly powerful, and he feels proud to have made an impact, however small. He reflected: 'I believe empowerment, through knowledge and education, is incredibly important. Empowering

the youth will give the nation a bright future. I have loved seeing the smiles on the teens' faces. I am so grateful to have had a part in the development of this very rewarding project – it's been awesome!'



# King's people

## Profile

# Gary Horrocks

Gary Horrocks is Director of Student Experience Support

### What brought you to King's?

I studied history at King's between 1984 and 1987 and loved the course. There was an eclectic range of study options, with great lecturers, including the late Roy Porter on the history of psychiatry at the Wellcome Institute, and David Starkey who used to sip a small sherry while lecturing on Henrician politics. I was attracted to the sheer scale and diversity of London and the opportunities for theatre and music, and after I finished my BA I didn't go back home to Manchester. I met my partner of 18 years here, and – apart from a year studying for an MSc in Information Science – I've worked at the College ever since, in a number of key Library/IT roles, including both Deputy and Acting Director of Research & Learning Support. I've now taken on the role of Director of Student Experience Support.

### Tell us about the new role

I'll be working with colleagues in the new Directorate of Students & Education Support to help enhance and shape the Professional Services portfolio that underpins the learning and teaching experience across the College. In partnership with the Vice Principal (Education) and KCLSU I hope to develop and deliver a new and inspiring Student Experience strategy to meet the College's aspirations for the future; designing and delivering optimal student-facing services.

### What are you looking forward to most about the role?

The higher education landscape is a dynamic and shifting one; and I've always relished change and the challenges and opportunities it presents. I am currently working in partnership with Robert Hall, the new Director of Library Services & Employability, to articulate a blueprint for 'Student Hubs'; significantly enhanced student information, advice and guidance services; one-stop-shops



Gary (second from right) and his partner, Dr Justin Sturge (far left) with Barry Manilow and Judy Garland's daughter Lorna Luft

at each Campus backed by extensive specialist support with a blend of face-to-face and online delivery. I am really excited about exploring innovative and flexible services across the board; making better use of staff expertise and communications technologies. Steve Smith of UUK once stated that students interact with central support teams on a regular basis with often complex requirements; so we have to make that relationship special and fit for purpose. With an increasingly diverse student community coming to King's with high expectations we can't afford to get this wrong.

### You're a leading expert on Judy Garland?

I've researched Judy's career for nearly 15 years now and have been

the editor of her International Club journal since 1998. This high-quality publication focuses on intelligent observations about her life and career, backed with major archival research and the publication of rare photographs from private collections across the world. The Club was established in 1963, in London, with Judy's blessing and approval. There are many older members who were close to her or experienced her live work in the 1950s and 60s, and it's fascinating to meet them and capture their anecdotes on camera. Judy actively embraced and appreciated her supporters and arranged for Club members to attend recording sessions, first night parties and back-stage get-togethers. In 1964 she attended

a meeting of the Club at the Russell Hotel in London, and stayed for five hours and sang for everybody. The magazine is read across the world, and we count politicians, actors, rock and pop stars among our followers and members. Learn more at [www.judygarlandclub.org](http://www.judygarlandclub.org)

### Why do you find her so fascinating?

She had a wicked sense of humour and a sharp intellect, and was often bemused by the 'legend' that built up around her. She's too often pigeonholed as Dorothy Gale from *The Wizard of Oz* or as some tragic figure, when in fact she worked non-stop for 42 of her 47 years and left an enduring legacy of film, radio, recordings, live concert appearances,

dance and comedy. In the final analysis, however, it's her voice and her superlative interpretation of the American songbook that fascinates me. *Life* magazine described her singing as: 'rich as caramel; solid as lava' – sincere, unrestrained and right from the heart.

### How does your personal interest in Garland inform your work at King's?

Part of my Garland work is about communicating the 'real' Garland in the media across the world. I'd like to think I bring that element of 'showmanship' to my work at King's. And a certain journalistic and academic realism from my activity at the College disciplines my writing for the Garland magazine.

## Professor Francesca Happé awarded Rosalind Franklin Award

Professor Francesca Happé, of the Institute of Psychiatry (IoP), has been awarded the 2011 Rosalind Franklin Award by the Royal Society. The award was granted in recognition of her scientific achievements, her suitability as a role model and her proposal to promote women in science.

Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre (SGDP), Happé's research interests focus on autism spectrum conditions. Professor Happé says: 'I was absolutely thrilled to receive this prestigious award. The MRC SGDP

Centre is a great place to work and it's a privilege to encourage the talented female scientists who work with me.' Professor Happé will be giving this year's Award Lecture at the Royal Society on 26 October.



Professor Francesca Happé

## Maths Prize

The London Mathematical Society has awarded prizes to two King's academics within the Maths Department in recognition of their outstanding work.

Professor Brian Davies was awarded the Pólya Prize for his remarkable work in spectral theory, including the powerful heat kernel methods that he developed and his work on non-self-adjoint operators. In memory of Professor G Pólya, the Prize is awarded in recognition of outstanding creativity in, imaginative exposition of, or distinguished contribution to, mathematics within the UK.

Dr Alexander Pushnitski was awarded the Whitehead Prize for his contributions to Spectral Theory

of Partial Differential Operators and, in particular, to the study of the properties of the discrete and continuous spectrum of Schrödinger operators. The Whitehead Prizes are in memory of Professor JHC Whitehead, and grounds for the award include work in, and influence on, maths.



Professor Brian Davies (left) and Dr Alexander Pushnitski





# Climbing for the Evelina

July saw 43 members of staff from the Evelina Children's Hospital at St Thomas' reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, trekking to the top to raise money for specialist bedside equipment that will help provide the highest standard of care for sick children. Eight King's alumni were amongst the intrepid trekkers who climbed the 6,000 metres to the top of the highest mountain on the African continent.

The trekkers' aim was to raise £400,000 for the Intensive Care Unit, which has gone from strength to strength since it opened five years ago. However, they have smashed that target with a fantastic £420,000 having been donated so far. The team slept in makeshift camps and trekked 10 hours a day on average in very high altitude with heavy day packs. Sara Hanna (UMDS, Medicine, 1982), Paediatric Care Consultant, summed up how it felt to participate in such an epic adventure: 'All the bad stuff falls away. It's like childbirth, you just forget how hard it was. I think everyone appreciates the enormity



On top of the world: the trekkers celebrate raising more than £400,000 for the Evelina Children's Hospital at St Thomas's

of what we've done.'

The brave King's alumni who took part in the trek were: Evelyn Sheehy, Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry (Guy's, Dentistry, 1998); Frances Flinter, Consultant Clinical Geneticist (Guy's, Medicine, 1982); Michael Champion, Consultant in Paediatric Inherited

Metabolic Disease (King's, Medical Sciences & Anatomy, 1985); Sarah McMurtrie, Ward Manager (King's, Children's Nursing, 2008); Rachel Hunt, Orthopaedic Nurse (King's, Children's Nursing, 2001); Sarah Hanna, Consultant (United Medical & Dental Schools, Medicine, 1982); Sophie Broom,

Staff Nurse, (King's, Nursing Studies, 2009); Sophia-Catherine Perowne, Nurse (King's, Nursing Studies, 2010).

Would you like to have the experience of a lifetime like the Kilimanjaro trekkers whilst helping sick children at the Evelina? Contact our events team on 020 7848 4332.



Mount Kilimanjaro

## Celebrating Maxwell at King's

In May and June, the Centre for Research and the Department of Physics ran a series of events celebrating the scientific discoveries of the Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell.

On 17 May 2011 it was 150 years since Maxwell's demonstration of the first colour photograph during a Royal Institution lecture on colour theory. Maxwell was a Professor at King's at the time and the College marked the anniversary with an event entitled 'Entanglements with colour', hosted by the Principal Professor Rick Trainor, and chaired by Professor David Richards, Head of the Department of Physics. Speakers included Maxwell biographer Basil Mahon and Professor John Ellis, Clerk Maxwell Professor of Theoretical Physics at King's.

Professor David Richards said: 'Maxwell is generally regarded as the world's leading theorist of the 19th century, laying the foundations for many of the most important achievements of 20th century physics. The legacy of his work can be seen in many areas of research at King's today, from telecommunications to medical imaging.'

The celebrations continued with an accompanying series of lunchtime talks looking at colour from various viewpoints. Alexander Stoddart,

Sculptor in Ordinary to Her Majesty The Queen in Scotland and creator of the Edinburgh statue of Maxwell, was the first speaker, describing the process of 'Monumentalising James Clerk Maxwell'. Other speakers were Dr Dominic ffytche, Institute of Psychiatry; Alexandra Loske, University of Sussex, and Professor Julian Stallabrass, Courtauld Institute of Art. The talks, which took place in the Anatomy Theatre & Museum were very well attended and podcasts of all the talks are available on the Anatomy Theatre & Museum website at: <http://atm.kcl.ac.uk/event/2011/05/17/maxwell-kings-speaker-media-files>. See <http://maxwell.kcl.ac.uk/> for more information about Maxwell at King's.



Colour photography is now 150 years old

## Fellows and Honorary Fellows

Over 3,000 students graduated this summer, with nine ceremonies taking place at the Barbican Centre and Southwark Cathedral. The College awarded this year's Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships, which are among the most prestigious awards King's can bestow.

The Principal offered his congratulations saying: 'It is very important to have an occasion at which graduates' success can be shared with each other. Those celebrating are graduating from one of the world's top universities. We are very proud of our alumni.' The following individuals were awarded a Fellowship or an Honorary Fellowship of King's College London:

### Fellows

Professor David Carpenter  
Ms Teresa Cheng SC  
Professor Margaret Cox OBE  
Patrick Disney  
Sir Christopher Geidt KCVO OBE PC  
Rt Reverend Graeme Knowles  
Professor Anne Marie Rafferty CBE  
Professor Dame Alison Richard DL  
Rory Tapner  
Professor Graham Thornicroft  
Mrs Fields Wicker-Miurin OBE



Sir Terry Pratchett supports dementia research

### Honorary Fellows

Lord Butler of Brockwell  
Lord Fink  
Jeremy Leigh-Pemberton CBE  
Madeline Long  
Brenda Maddox (Lady Maddox)  
Michael Parker OBE  
Sir Terry Pratchett  
Patrick Spottiswoode

The College also conferred the Fellowship of King's earlier this year on Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Augustine Ong Soon Hock. He is an honoured alumnus of King's who has been active in scientific research and development for over 50 years, and is King's senior alumnus in Malaysia.

## News in brief

### New Appointments

The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Helen McCutcheon as its new Head of School. Professor McCutcheon currently holds the position of Head of the School of Nursing & Midwifery at the University of South Australia. Professor Alison While will be Acting Head of School until the end of October.



Professor Helen McCutcheon

Dr Dianne Rekow, Senior Vice Provost of Engineering and Technology at New York University (NYU) and Provost of Polytechnic Institute of NYU, has been appointed as the next Dean of the Dental Institute. She will succeed Professor Nairn Wilson, who is due to retire at the end of this year, and will take up the position from 1 January 2012.

Professor Michael Walker OBE FREng has been appointed as the Head of School of Natural & Mathematical Sciences. Professor Walker was previously a Vodafone Fellow and an Executive Technical Advisor to the company. He is chairman of the Board of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, and Vice Chairman of the Mobile VCE – a group of universities and industries researching mobile communications.

Maxine Taylor has been appointed as the College's new Director of External Relations and is responsible for brand management, public affairs, marketing, communications, public engagement, the Summer School, Study Abroad and Internships. She joined from Nationwide Building Society where she held the position of Director of Corporate Affairs.



Maxine Taylor



# King's people

## Focus

## Institute of Contemporary History

Formed in September 2010, the Institute of Contemporary History (ICH) unites academics in the fields of humanities, law and social sciences.

ICH is an interdisciplinary cross-School initiative and a self-governing department of the College. 'We intend to be the foremost University body in the UK for contemporary history, generating high quality research and learning that informs the present through a better understanding and knowledge of our recent past,' explains Professor Robert Blackburn, its first Director. 'Our aim is to foster co-operation with other academic and cultural institutions, and raise the profile of contemporary history.'

ICH's foundation reflects a shared belief that King's is ideally placed to become the leading home for contemporary history research. This was reinforced by the readiness of the Centre for Contemporary British History (CCBH) to move from the University of London's Institute of Historical Research last year to become part of ICH at King's.

ICH has a staff of 17. Besides Professor Blackburn, and Dr Virginia Preston who is the Institute's Administrator and Deputy Director of the CCBH, there are nine other academics and six visiting fellows. ICH offers an MA in Contemporary History and jointly administers the MA in North American Studies, with plans to launch an MA in Politics & Contemporary History in 2012. There are currently 20 PhD research students, with topics ranging from voluntary action and the welfare state 1939-45, to the royal diplomacy of Edward VII and George V.

### Witness Programme

The ICH Witness Programme, pioneered by CCBH and directed by Dr Michael Kandiah, is one of ICH's most distinctive activities. Some five seminars are held annually, consisting of an on-the-record discussion among participants in a particular historical event or issue, with transcripts made available on paper and on-line. Previous subjects include the 1975 referendum on Europe; resistance to

the Poll Tax, and the 1992 failure of the Exchange Rate Mechanism. The Programme has received an AHRC grant to work with the Foreign Office.

The Institute houses the History & Policy Project, set up by Professor Patricia Thane, funded by the Arcadia Fund and Esmée Fairbairn and run jointly with Cambridge University, which puts professional historians in touch with those deciding public policy, enabling historical research to influence current policy.

The Centre for Political & Constitutional Studies was established within ICH in 2010 to promote the contemporary history of UK government. At the request of the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, a major project is an exploration of the possibility of codifying the UK's constitution. The work is funded by the Nuffield Foundation and the

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and led by Professor Blackburn with a team including Senior Research Fellow Dr Andrew Blick and Research Professor Vernon Bogdanor, one of the UK's best-known constitutional experts.

### Global History

A Centre for Contemporary Global History is planned, which will work closely with the existing King's Institute for North American Studies. The ICH is also playing a major role in the programme for the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015.

Recent books by members of staff include Professor Richard Roberts' authorship of *The Economist's* guides to the City and Wall Street and studies of the City of London, and Professor Thane's works on *Britain's Pensions Crisis* and *Old Age in English History*. Professor Bogdanor's book

on *The Coalition and the Constitution* addresses the government's reform agenda, while Professor Blackburn has published articles this year on the 2010 General Election and formation of the coalition government and on the Representation of the People Act of 1918. Professor Blackburn is also the author of *King and Country and Parliament: Functions, Practice & Procedures*, and co-editor of a 50-year study of the European Convention on Human Rights.

ICH hosts a growing number of distinguished visiting scholars, including Professor Lord Kenneth Morgan, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales and author of numerous biographies of former Prime Ministers.

The first annual ICH Lecture will be given on 18 October by Sir Robert Worcester FKC, on 'Politics and Public Opinion'.



Police charge demonstrators during the Poll Tax riot in Trafalgar Square in March 1990: a Witness Programme topic

## News in brief

### Estates apprentice wins prestigious award

Daniel Xuereb, Electrical Apprentice at Denmark Hill, was honoured to receive the prestigious Harland Roberts Apprentice of the Year 2011. The award was also won previously by Mark Rosser, an electrical apprentice at the Strand, in 2009.

Apprentice of the Year is awarded to the best apprentice on the basis of overall occupational progress, practical and theoretical ability, positive approach to employment and outstanding personal qualities. The Award was presented at a glittering ceremony in the Playfair Library in Edinburgh, in September. The judges commented that: 'The quality of the candidates was outstanding.'

### Alumnus becomes youngest ever member of Turkish Parliament

A Management Department alumnus has become the youngest member of the Turkish Parliament in history. Bilal Macit graduated from the MSc in Public Services Policy & Management in 2010, and was elected as a deputy for the AK (Justice and Development) Party this year, at the age of 27.

Bilal remarked: 'My education equipped me with new perspectives and a broader vision.' Talking about his plans within the Turkish Parliament, he commented: 'My aim is to be actively involved in social responsibility projects and politics. I will be working on particular projects to contribute to the democratisation process in Turkey.'



Bilal Macit

## Media watch

### Sunburn pain

Professor Steve McMahon, from the Wolfson Centre for Age-Related Diseases, discovered a molecule that causes sunburn to hurt, which could lead to new medicines to treat pain in other inflammatory conditions. The research was reported by the *Observer* and *The Times*, and was also featured in *Time* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

### Diabetes gene

A gene linked to diabetes and cholesterol may also control other genes linked to fat in the body, according to

research led by Professor Tim Spector (below) from the Department of Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology. The study was reported by Reuters, *South China Morning Post*, *Times of India* and CNN.

### Depression study

Dr Gerome Breen, Institute of Psychiatry, discovered evidence that genetic variations may cause depression.



The story received coverage in *Independent* and *New Scientist* as well as Xinhua in China, *Correio do Estado* in Brazil, the *Times of India* and ABC News.

### Future broadcaster

Part time lecturer in Comparative Literature & English Dr Laurence Scott was named as a key media commentator and broadcaster of the future, in a competition run by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and BBC Radio 3. Dr Scott delivered a five-minute 'Think' piece on the sinister history of tennis

in literature, on *Nightwaves*. His success was covered by the *Guardian*.

### Equality and cancer

Dr Margaret Luchtenborg, Cancer Studies, has conducted research into how many cancer patients may survive in a more equal society, given the link between poverty and the disease. The study was reported by Sky News, the *Guardian*, *Daily Express* and the *Daily Mail*.

### Women in Saudi Arabia

Professor Madawai Al-Rasheed (right), Theology and Religious

Studies, gave multiple interviews regarding women's rights in Saudi Arabia. She appeared on BBC Radio 4's *Today* and *Woman's Hour* programmes, and was quoted by ABC News, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Guardian*.

### Listening babies

Babies as young as three months can tune







Flashback

# Gilbert at King's

The College Archives throw new light on WS Gilbert's life as an undergraduate ... long before Sullivan

Eagle-eyed observers of the College's 'Hall of Fame' in the Strand windows may have noticed that we wrongly recorded the subject of WS Gilbert's degree at King's as engineering. In fact, the librettist (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame) whose death centenary falls this year, gained his BA by taking a University of London general degree in 1857, after studying at King's between 1853 and 1855.

Gilbert's degree required him to pass exams in classics; Grecian, Roman and English history; mathematics and natural philosophy; animal physiology; logic and moral philosophy, and either French or German. Although he cannot be said to have had an engineering degree (or a law degree, which some have supposed on the grounds that he went on to become a barrister), the syllabus he followed for 'mathematics and natural philosophy' did include some topics useful to engineers, such as arithmetic and algebra; geometry; plane trigonometry; mechanics; hydrostatics, hydraulics and pneumatics, and astronomy.

## Archives

William Schwenk Gilbert was born in 1836, the eldest child and only son of the surgeon turned author Dr William Gilbert. He was educated at the Western Grammar School, Brompton, and the Great Ealing School where he was Head Boy. Records in the College Archives show that he was first enrolled as an 'occasional' student at King's in March 1853 and then in September 1853 as a 'regular' student in the College's Department of General Literature and Science.

The subjects he took at King's (between the Michaelmas term of 1853 and the Michaelmas term of 1855, with a gap in the Easter term of 1855) were divinity, history, classics, mathematics and French, with a possible short dabble in German. The Student Reports book shows he received generally good reports for his English

studies, though variable ones for other subjects. In the Lent term of 1854, for example, his divinity performance was described as 'indifferent', and in French he was 'frequently absent' and 'inattentive', with 'more application required'. In classics however his work was 'much improved', and his marks for English and English composition ranged from 'Good' to 'Very good'.

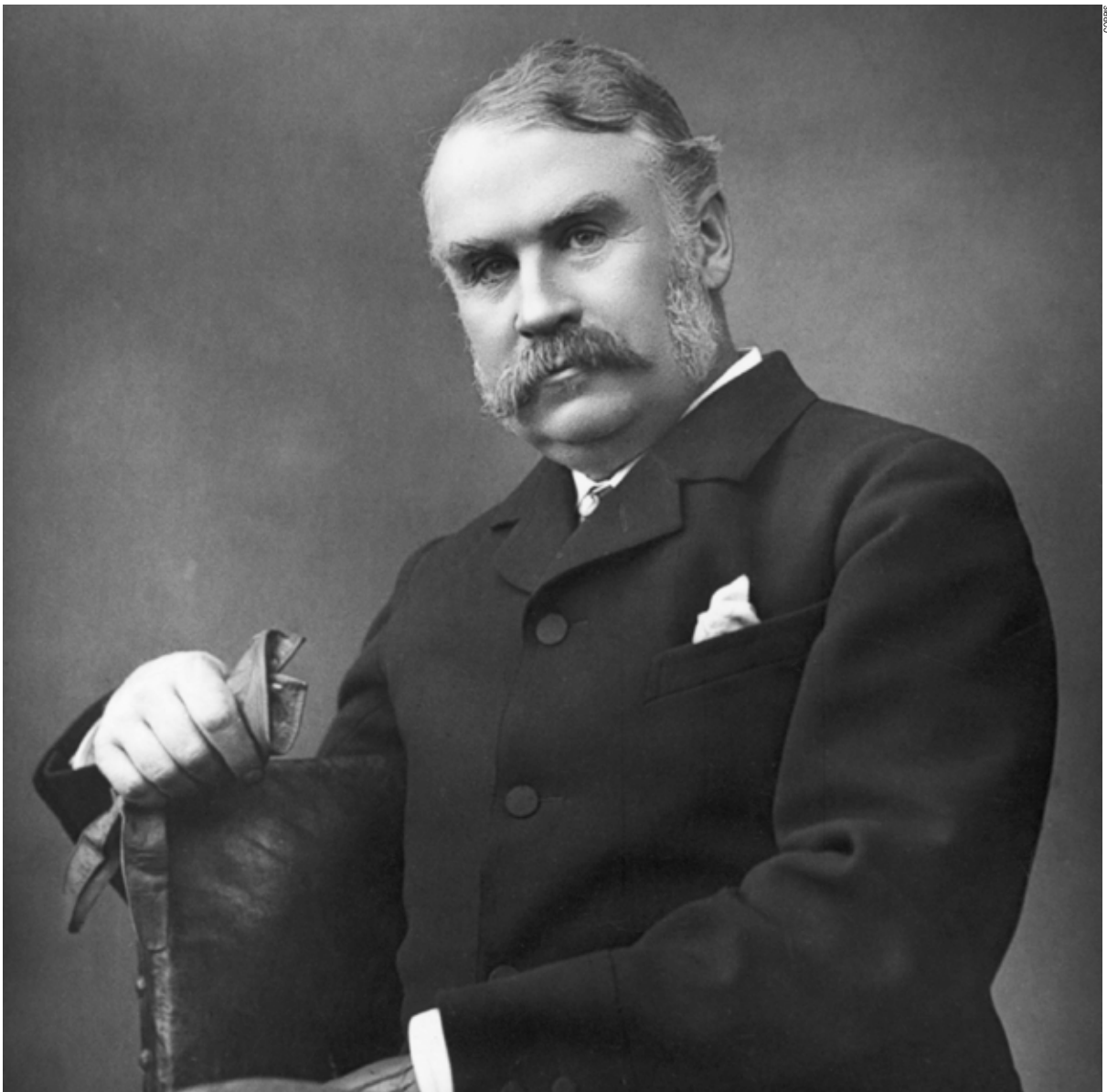
## Engineering

The idea that Gilbert studied engineering may have arisen from a report in WO Skeat's account of the *King's College London Engineering Society* 1847-1857 (not dated, but probably published in 1957). Skeat records various signs of decline in the Engineering Society in the early 1850s, and records that on 31 October 1854, 'at an Extraordinary Meeting, it was proposed and seconded, under a motion from a member named Geary, "that this Society be dissolved and that its funds and property be devoted to the founding of a Shakespearean Reading Society." An amendment moved by a certain WS Gilbert was then carried, that the Society be also called a Dramatic as well as a Shakespearean Reading Society.'

The resolution was subsequently approved by the Principal (Dr Jelf) and Gilbert became Secretary of this society. Skeat also records, however, that in November 1857, 'as soon as was decently possible' after Gilbert's graduation, the Engineering Society reassumed its proper title (becoming the 'Engineering and Scientific Society' in 1858).

## Downing Street

Gilbert's address after leaving King's is given in the College records as 'Ed Dept Downing Street', reflecting the fact that after he took his degree he became an assistant clerk in the education department of the Privy Council Office. A year or two later he inherited funds which enabled him to have an income of £300, and he then



WS Gilbert studied for a general degree at King's, not engineering

left his government job to become a barrister, having already entered the Inner Temple as a student. He was called to the bar in November 1863, and after practising in London he joined the northern circuit in March 1866. However, in 1861 he had become a contributor to a new comic weekly magazine, *Fun*, and his career as a journalist, critic, translator, short-story

writer, occasional war correspondent, illustrator, dramatist and librettist rapidly became successful.

He began collaborating on what were known as the Savoy operas with the composer Arthur Sullivan in 1875 with *Trial by Jury*, and their partnership endured, through works including *HMS Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Patience*, *Iolanthe*, *The*

*Mikado*, *The Yeoman of the Guard* and *The Gondoliers*, until the early 1890s. In 1907 Gilbert became the first dramatist to receive a knighthood. He is one of a remarkable number of authors connected with King's, ranging from Virginia Woolf to Arthur C Clarke, and from Thomas Hardy to Hanif Kureishi.

Dr Christine Kenyon Jones

into the emotions and tone of voice of those around them, according to a study led by Professor Declan Murphy, Institute of Psychiatry. The research was covered by BBC News, the *Daily Mail* and MSNBC.

## Libyan conflict

Academics from War Studies gave interviews regarding NATO's campaign in Libya. Professor Mervyn Frost commented on the cost of the mission in the *Daily Mirror*, Professor Theo Farrell spoke to the *New York Times* on the use of helicopters, and Professor Mats

Berdal was quoted in the *Economist* on the decision to intervene.

## Franklin remembered

Rosalind Franklin, who helped discover the structure of DNA when working at King's, was featured on BBC's *The One Show*. Professor Brian Sutton, Randall Division of Cell & Molecular Biophysics, spoke about Franklin's work.



## MND research

Research by Professor Ammar Al-Chalabi, Neurology, has found that people with the most common form of motor neurone disease (MND) have relatively long ring fingers. The story was reported by Xinhua, BBC Brazil and BBC Mundo and the Press Association.

## Maths skills

Professor Alice Rogers and Professor Ammar Al-Chalabi,

Mathematics, published a report that highlighted a crucial lack in maths skills amongst school leavers. The study was covered by the *Daily Mail* and the *Guardian*.

## Assisted suicide debate

Professor Penney Lewis (left), Law, appeared on a BBC *Newsnight* special, commenting on the current legal guidelines surrounding assisted suicide in the UK.



## 3D dentistry

The BBC News website featured the 'HapTEL' project, led by Professor Margaret Cox (left) from the Dental Institute, which uses new 3D technology to train dental students in filling teeth.

## Animal rights

Dr Christine Kenyon Jones, English, spoke to BBC's *The One Show* concerning the history of animal rights in the UK.



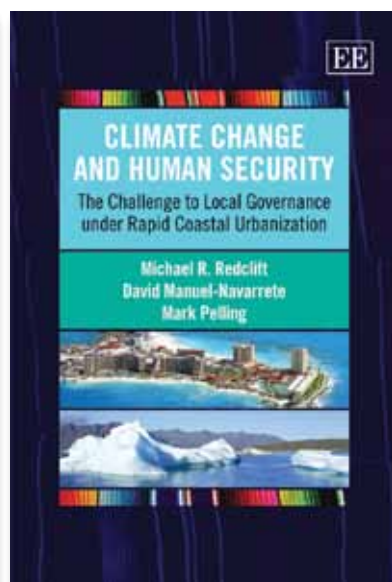


## Reading Games in the Greek Novel

Dr Eleni Papargyriou, Department of Byzantine & Modern Greek Literature

How is play constituent in the formation of the Greek modernist novel? Competing with European and North American models and antagonisms within Greek literary genres, some novelists from the 1930s onwards employed playfulness as a means to show – or even perform – the genre's novelty. They developed complex communicative patterns to involve the reader in bringing the plot into a meaningful synthesis. Covering the years between 1930 and 1975, this book is a comprehensive study of Greek modernist prose fiction.

*Legenda*

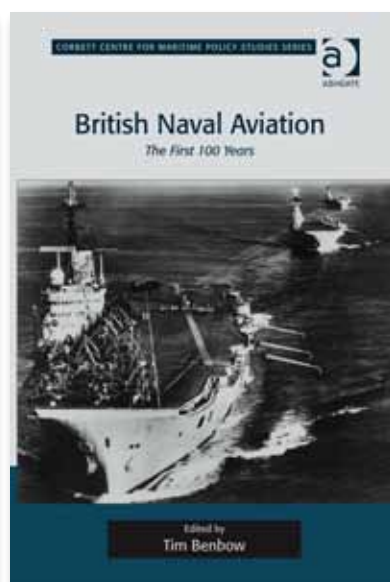


## Climate Change and Human Security: The Challenge to Local Governance under Rapid Coastal Urbanization

Professor Michael R Redclift, David Manuel Navarrete and Dr Mark Pelling, Department of Geography

For people of the Mexican Caribbean, evidence of the effects of climate change, including hurricanes, is very familiar. This study documents the choices and risks of people who are powerless to change the economic development model which is forcing climate change. It examines the Mexican Caribbean coast and explores the wider issues of managing climate change in vulnerable areas of the tropics.

*Edward Elgar Publishing*

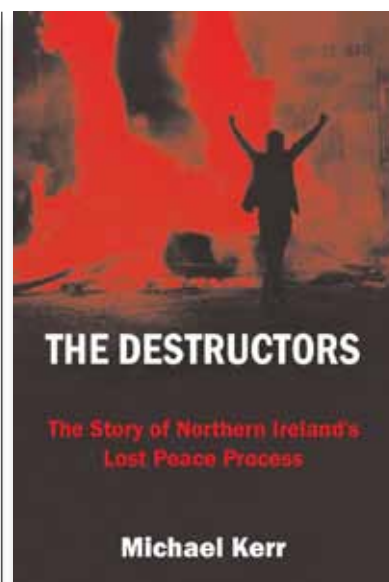


## British Naval Aviation: The First 100 Years

Dr Tim Benbow, Department of Defence Studies (editor)

Drawing on much new historical research, this book takes a broadly chronological approach to exploring key events and issues of British naval aviation, from the Admiralty's first order for an airship in 1909 through to debates concerning replacement aircraft carriers in the early 21st century. In so doing, the volume offers fascinating insights into one of the most important aspects of defence policy and Britain's military history, which is sure to stimulate further scholarly debate.

*Ashgate Publishing*



## The Destructors: The Story of Northern Ireland's Lost Peace Process

Dr Michael Kerr, Department of Middle East & Mediterranean Studies

Northern Ireland Executive's fate was sealed when the policy of using power-sharing to regulate 'the Troubles' was abandoned by British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, following an ill-timed Westminster general election in February 1974. Drawing on previously unavailable Irish archival material and over 40 interviews with politicians central to a peace process that led to an Anglo-Irish settlement at Sunningdale in December 1973, Michael Kerr re-examines why Northern Ireland's power-sharing experiment failed.

*Irish Academic Press*

## What's on

### King's International Lecture Series From October, various venues, Guy's Campus

Don't miss out on the 2011-12 King's Health Partners and King's College London International Lecture Series. The series features renowned scientists in translational medicine and basic science, and will include lectures from two Nobel Prize winners and a speaker from the World Health Organisation. The lectures are free of charge and open to all staff across King's Health Partners. To find out more, email [sarah.crack@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.crack@kcl.ac.uk) or log in to the staff pages on the King's Health Partners website.

### Reading by Nigerian writer Chibundu Onuzo

**14 October (18.00-19.00), The Great Hall, Strand Campus**

As part of the College's Black History Month celebrations, undergraduate student Chibundu Onuzo, recently hailed as one of Nigeria's freshest young writers, will give an exclusive talk and reading from her novel *The Spider King's Daughter*.

The event will be held on 14 October from 18.00-19.00 in The Great Hall, Strand Campus (Drinks reception at 17.30). All staff and students are welcome to attend.



Chibundu Onuzo

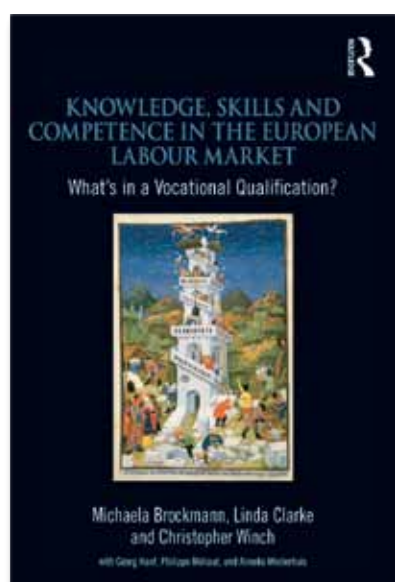
### Collaborators

**1 December (19.00), Anatomy Theatre & Museum (ATM), Strand Campus**

National Theatre Live @ King's presents *Collaborators* a new play by John Hodge directed by National Theatre Director Nicholas Hytner. The play centres on an imaginary encounter between Joseph Stalin and the playwright Mikhail Bulgakov. Alex Jennings will play Bulgakov and Simon Russell Beale will play Stalin.

This will be a live broadcast of the play streamed directly to the ATM from the National Theatre. All tickets include a drink in the interval and cost £15.00 general public, £12.50 staff and alumni and £10.00 King's students. Tickets can be booked at <http://atm@kcl.ac.uk>.

*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](mailto:internalcommunications@kcl.ac.uk) by 11 November.



## Knowledge Skills and Competence in the European Labour Market

Professor Christopher Winch, Department of Education & Professional Studies

Transparency and comparability of qualifications across member states is vital for the free movement of labour in the European Union. This book examines how qualifications, knowledge, skills and competences are understood in different national contexts and transnationally. Against the background of EU policy initiatives and the European Qualifications Framework, the book focuses on the prospects of establishing cross-national recognition of qualifications.

*Routledge*



## The Peace in Between: Post-war violence and peacebuilding

Professor Mats Berdal, Department of War Studies

The end of a war is expected to be followed by an end to collective violence. In reality, deadly violence often continues and may increase after a formal peace agreement has been signed. This book examines the causes and purposes of post-war violence. It argues that the war-to-peace transition, post-war military and political power and their links to social hierarchies of power, normative concepts of the post-war order, and the international context create varied types of post-war environments.

*Routledge*

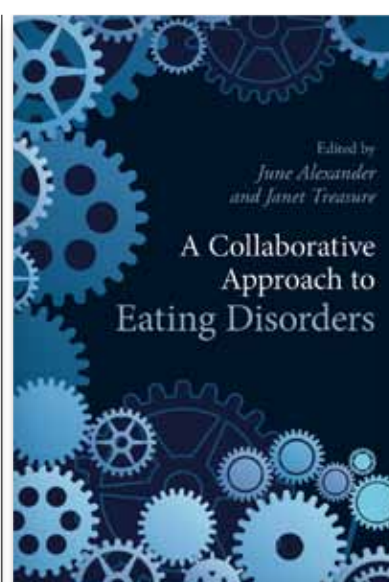


## The Moon and Madness

Dr Niall McCrae, Institute of Psychiatry

Lunacy became a generic term for mental disorder in the 18th century. In spite of modern psychiatry, belief in lunar influence persists among mental health nurses, the professional group with most patient contact. This fascinating account comprises a historical review and a critical examination of the evidence. The author critiques the epistemological hegemony of psychiatry and psychology, urging an open mind towards a phenomenon that is both preposterous – and possible.

*Imprint Academic*



## A Collaborative Approach to Eating Disorders

Professor Janet Treasure, Institute of Psychiatry and June Alexander (editors)

While many aspects of eating disorders remain a mystery, there is growing evidence that collaboration is an essential element for treatment success. This book emphasises and explains the importance of family involvement as part of a unified team approach towards treatment and recovery. It draws upon up-to-date evidence based research, as well as case studies and clinical vignettes to illustrate the seriousness of eating disorders and the impact on both the sufferer and their loved ones.

*Routledge*