

July 2022

# NEWS

**Another outstanding year for GHSM: funding success, high-impact community outreach and partnership-building, methodological innovation to advance our anti-racist research and pedagogic agenda, a sanctuary scheme for Ukrainian refugee students and academics. There is a lot to write home about.**

In the face of challenges at home and abroad, GHSM continues to provide intellectual mooring and moral orientation, as a strategic platform to critically diagnose and collectively address, our common problems.

That assessment echoes the conclusions of the REF, which ranked GHSM among the top ten of UK Sociology Departments – an impressive commendation, especially for a young and crucially *interdisciplinary* Department. Beyond the empirical rigour and theoretical sophistication of its research, GHSM has been recognised for its dynamism, inclusivity and thorough going commitment to equitable partnership – a culture which was considered among the top five for research environment across the UK.

Another REF cycle begins, and we are hot out of the gates with prestigious research awards. Kelly Rose-Clarke has been recognised as a UKRI *Future Leader*, for her pathbreaking work on adolescent psychological interventions in Nepal. Liming Li has been awarded a British Academy Fellowship to examine the impacts of higher education expansion policy on women's empowerment, while Anthea Tinker has received support from the EPSRC to develop a smart system to decrease loneliness, and Christine Aicardi is funded by the Social Science Impact Fund to work with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds at Theatre Peckham, experimenting with creative methods to articulate their concerns and visions for the future.

GHSM's new research clusters offer a strategic context for collaboration, feedback, early-career development and support. This thematic strategy has already produced rich dividends, including *The Political Stakes of Cancer* workshop, led by postdoctoral fellows

Thandeka Cochrane, Shagufta Bhangu, Fabien Provost and Jennifer Fraser, and the *Reproductive Salon*, masterfully produced by Lucy Van De Wiel. The Centre for Society and Mental Health held *Partnering for Change*, a festival linking academics, service users, civil society and policy makers to radically reimagine the social value and transformative power of collaboration. Finally, Wei Yang hosted the Annual Lecture for the Institute of Gerontology starring Bobby Duffy, Director of King's Policy Institute, while Dominique Béhague has led the exciting *Age of Health* Series.

In April, we welcomed Professor Sarah Hodges, a renowned historian-anthropologist currently working on the Wellcome Trust funded project *What's at stake in the fake?* together with research fellows [Dr Zoë Goodman](#), [Dr Ushehwedu Kufakurinani](#), and [Dr Nishpriha Thakur](#). In August we will welcome two new research chairs. Professor Laia Bécars is a social epidemiologist concerned with how health inequalities are shaped by the crosscutting dynamics of marginalisation, oppression and discrimination. Professor Ben Baumberg-Geiger, a leader in the sociological analysis of disability, and founder and director of the Kent Q-Step Centre, will continue his critical analysis of how incapacities are understood, assessed and accommodated in the workplace within the Centre of Society and Mental Health. It is hard to imagine a more auspicious congregation of interests, commitments, and expertise as we soar into our second decade. But first, there are many celebrations to be had of all that we have accomplished so far. Happy summer to all!

**Professor Ann Kelly** HOD  
**Dr David Reubi** Deputy HOD

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## Dr Kelly Rose-Clarke awarded prestigious UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship

Dr Kelly Rose-Clarke, lecturer in Global Mental Health, will explore how proven talking therapies in low-resource settings, particularly in Nepal, could be used to support adolescents with mental health conditions.

**'Nepal is pioneering community approaches to mental health care. I will use my fellowship to learn from Nepali experts about how these approaches can be optimised for adolescents, and to build an international research team working on ways to improve and scale mental health care in other community settings.'**



## EPSRC funded DELONELINESS project launches at King's

Led by PI Dr Wei Lu (Department of Engineering, King's) and Co-Is Professor Anthea Tinker, Dr Faith Matcham (Sussex) and Professor Sebastian Ourselin (Biomedical Engineering & Imaging, King's), DELONELINESS is an interdisciplinary project funded by the EPSRC (£968,372) bringing academic experts from Social Gerontology, Psychology, Design, Smart Composite Material, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and industrial partners as well as policy makers to: (i) understand the conditions of being lonely and (ii) develop a smart system to measure and monitor loneliness.

Loneliness is a growing health concern in a rapidly ageing society. As Age UK noted in 2018, 1.4 million older people class themselves as often lonely, and it is estimated this will rise to 2 million people over the aged of 50 by 2025. Loneliness, typically defined as a 'discrepancy between one's desired and achieved levels of social relations' is generally experienced by over one third of older people. The subjective feeling of loneliness has been associated with a range of negative outcomes including increased prevalence of physical and mental illness, all-cause mortality, and risk of self-harm. Whilst issues of loneliness may be overlooked by health and social service professionals, the COVID-19 pandemic could have accelerated these issues due to lockdown. Reduced access to social support networks, community events and family highlight the need to detect and support those who are lonely at home. It is of paramount importance to refine methods of identifying loneliness in those who are isolated to allow timely and effective intervention. The timely and accurate identification of loneliness of older people will enable informed care choices at home. The main objective of this research is to determine different levels of loneliness via bespoke multi-sensing monitoring. This could be used to identify those at risk of loneliness and highlight priorities for targeted intervention. Prompt actions to identify and help lonely older people would help to decrease the risk of developing serious healthcare issues and help support them to live independently ■



## The Biotechnology & Society research group (BIOS) announces winners of the second annual student essay contest

Following the success of the launch of the essay competition in 2021, this year's essays addressed the following question: *We are not human all the way down. So what?*

First prize (£600) goes to Rebecca Sinnott, MSc Global Health & Social Justice, for an essay titled *The Oracle*. This dystopian article is a highly original and creative take on fem-tech. It is a timely and thought-provoking piece that shines an unsettling light on the relationship between bodies, data and contemporary reproductive politics.

Second prize (£300) goes to Malaika Okundi, final-year student in the Global Health And Social Medicine BSc (Hons), for her essay *Are probiotics the catalyst for a medical shift from individualism towards interspecies approaches?* This beautifully written essay traces historical uses of probiotics throughout modern medicine to make an interspecies argument about the human body: we're not human all the way down, and we never have been.

**'In a 2035 landmark case, shortly after the nationwide ban on abortion in the United States, the Supreme Court found that 'fem tech' apps contracted by the Mississippi State Police Department committed no legal wrongdoing in sharing app users' data. The case was brought to the Supreme Court after 17 Mississippi women, including an 18-year-old high-schooler, were convicted of first-degree murder in the month following the abortion ban. These women were found to have had abortions, with key evidence stemming from the data they inputted into their 'fem tech' apps. The Mississippi State Police Department contracted the apps to share data of 'significant interest', including (but not limited to) women whose periods stopped for 6 weeks or more, and then resumed.'**

An excerpt of the winning essay, *The Oracle*, by Rebecca Sinnott

The essay competition was open to all King's students enrolled on undergraduate or taught postgraduate programmes, as well as recent graduates. The selection committee was comprised of Dr Sara Bea, chair of the Biotechnology & Society research cluster, Dr Silvia Camporesi, Reader in Bioethics & Health Humanities, and Jessica Tatchell, PhD candidate in the department. The winning essays can be read in full on the [GHSM website](#) ■





## Dr Liming Li awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship

Dr Li's three year project *Understanding the impact of higher education expansion policy on women's empowerment* will examine how public policies that expanded access to higher education influenced women's sense of empowerment in the family domain, by using quantitative (quasi-experimental) and qualitative methods and through the lens of China ■



## Dr Sally King receives Highly Commended prize in SSPP Impact Awards

Her doctoral research identified gender and racial myths in biomedical, academic and patient descriptions of PMS (Premenstrual Syndrome), which contribute to disbelief in (especially Black and Bangladeshi British) women's accounts of symptoms and needlessly restrict clinical research and practice. The prize was awarded in recognition of providing patient-centred evidence within several women's health All Party Parliamentary Groups and engaging popular audiences through her blogs on the Menstrual Matters website and public speaking ■

# Congratulations to the Global Social Medicine Network essay prizewinners

The contest was open to all postgraduate students and invited submissions on the topic 'The future of social medicine'. The selection committee included Drs Carlo Caduff, Michelle Pentecost and Professors Jeremy Greene, David Jones, Nikolas Rose, Junko Kitanaka and Francisco Ortega. The competition's four winners, as well as two additional students given a 'special commendation', will have their essays published later this year.

### Our four winners



**Miguel Ángel Domínguez Hernández**  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
*Healthcare in the Age of Inequality*



**Selim Gokce Atici**  
Stanford University  
*Social Medicine as a State of Exception: Rethinking Responsibility and Public Medicine*



**Holly Coltart**  
Harvard University  
*The Future of Social Medicine*



**Mariana Ramos Pitta Lima**  
Universidade Federal da Bahia  
*Democracy, Power, Knowledge, and Health: Questions for the Future of Social Medicine*

### Special commendation



**Vyoma Dhar Sharma**  
University of Oxford  
*The Future of Social Medicine*

### Special commendation



**Princess Banda**  
University of Oxford  
*Understanding Racism as an Artificial Epidemic: What British Social Medicine Can Learn from Critical Black Scholarship* ■



# ***The Political Stakes of Cancer: New Contexts, New Subjectivities: Early Career Researchers' Workshop***

**On 7 and 8 June a two-day workshop was held at King's bringing together 17 early career researchers and seven established scholars. The participants are investigating cancer in various social, political and geographical formations, rethinking how, and in what contexts, we study cancer.**

**T**he workshop generated a global conversation on the stakes, forms, milieus and imaginaries of cancer. Participants are conducting research in more than 24 countries, including Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Haiti, China and the United States. The papers explored topics ranging from swampy infrastructures in Russia, temporalities of watchful waiting in Haiti, masculinities and prostate cancer in Tanzania, Qigong and cancer care in China, pain, morphine and cancer treatment in South

Asia, indigenous metaphors for cancer care in South Africa, and many more. As discussants, the workshop brought together some of the most experienced scholars currently working in the field: Noemi Tousignant, Cecilia Van Hollen, Kirsten Bell, Marissa Mika, David Reubi and Carlo Caduff. Ruth Prince was the keynote speaker. Together, they examined the stakes of cancer research on a dedicated panel.

The workshop launched a network on cancer research which will facilitate continued engagement on the themes of the workshop, and create a growing community exploring the political stakes of cancer. The workshop was organised by Shagufta Bhangu, Thandeka Cochrane and Fabien Provost, postdoctoral scholars at GHSM and financially supported by the SSPP Faculty Research Fund, the GHSM Impact Fund and the Culture, Medicine and Power research group ■



# GHSM Reproduction Research Cluster hosts the first Reproduction Salon



**On 25 May 2022, the new Reproduction Research Cluster at King's hosted the first Reproduction Salon on the rooftop terrace of Bush House. Sponsored by the King's Together Fund and the Culture Medicine and Power Research Group, the premise for this event was: It's time.**

**A**fter two years of Zoom meetings, virtual conferences, Teams galleries, it's time to come together again; to share, to make plans, to drink, to laugh, to be inspired, to live. Overlooking the Thames and the London skyline, the Bush House rooftop terrace provided the backdrop to the best Zoom antidote: a gathering with food, drinks, music, projections, academic speed dating, sharing of publications, and the opportunity to reunite with reproduction scholars across London and the UK. This event was attended by over

100 scholars working on reproduction, be it reproductive technologies, abortion, stem cells, contraception, demography or developmental biology. Scholars, writers, clinicians, activists, regulators, and podcasters came together to showcase their work, make future plans and reconnect. Hosted by Dr Lucy van de Wiel with support from Reproduction Research Cluster members, the event launches the new cluster and will hopefully be the first salon of many to come. Watch a video of the event [here](#) ■

## Around GHSM



**Dr Filippa Lentzos** and team briefed the White House and the UK Cabinet Office on **new work arguing that artificial intelligence could be repurposed to create new biochemical weapons**. Published in *Nature Machine Intelligence*, the research paper has been downloaded over 100,000 times.



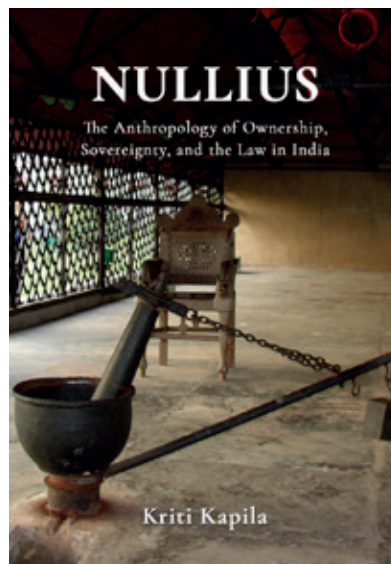
**Lydia Tsiakiri** Bioethics & Society alumna (class of 2021), was awarded a fully paid PhD scholarship at the University of Aarhus, in Denmark for the project: *Discrimination against acquired features: An integrated empirical ethics assessment through the lens of a chosen lifestyle compared to an inescapable income*.



**Professor Sarah Hodges** delivered the keynote for the **Risky Hormones** workshop at la Charite in Berlin as part of a series run by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.



**Dr Carlo Caduff** was the Spring 2022 Distinguished Visitor at the Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures at the University of Virginia. As part of this invitation, he delivered a public lecture on *The Social in Social Distancing: Rethinking Stigma in the Futures* **lecture series**, interacted with students and faculty and participated in a workshop organised around his research on pandemic preparedness ■



## Dr Kriti Kapila's book **Nullius: The Anthropology of Ownership, Sovereignty, and the Law in India** published **open access** with University of Chicago Press

**Nullius is an anthropological account of the troubled status of ownership in India and its consequences for our understanding of sovereignty and social relations.**

**T**hough property rights and ownership are said to be a cornerstone of modern law, in the Indian case they are often a spectral presence. Kapila offers a detailed study of paradigms where proprietary relations have been erased, denied, misappropriated.

The book examines three forms of negation, where the Indian state de facto adopted doctrines of terra nullius

(in the erasure of indigenous title), res nullius (in acquiring museum objects), and, controversially, corpus nullius (in denying citizens ownership of their bodies under biometrics).

The result is a pathbreaking reconnection of questions of property, exchange, dispossession, law, and sovereignty.

The book is available [here](#) ■



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## Illustrated storybook: Our lives with mental illness in the Palestinian community

**P**ublished in Arabic by a group of Palestinians with severe mental illness in collaboration with Hanna Kienzler (King's College London), Suzan Mitwalli and Yoke Rabaia (Birzeit University, Palestine) and the Palestinian Counseling Center, the **storybook** highlights the difficulties and opportunities for people with mental illness to live and participate in their communities focusing on their experiences with living and participating in the community; living with mental illness; medication; equal treatment; work; and leisure and spare time. The book is available as hardcopy and as **downloadable PDF** with audio recordings and interactive discussion questions.

The book will be available in English soon. To learn more about the project, please get in touch with [Hanna Kienzler](#) ■

# Refugee Mental Health & Place Network inaugural conference



**Here in the UK, refugees and migrants face challenging conditions upon arrival fuelled by anti-immigration policies and structural violence in the form of racism, discrimination and marginalisation.**





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## The Refugee Mental Health & Place Network held its inaugural conference on 13 May 2022. A full day online event brought together 150 scholars, activists, artists, and people with lived experience. The conference organising team included Hanna Kienzler, Guntars Ermansons, Peter Schofield and Zara Asif.

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The conference took place at a critical point in time, shortly after Home Secretary Priti Patel announced her plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda and during debates around the National Borders Bill. Here in the UK, refugees and migrants face challenging conditions upon arrival fuelled by anti-immigration policies and structural violence in the form of racism, discrimination and marginalisation. Such discrimination has been shown to detrimentally affect refugees' and migrants' lives and to lead to worse health and mental health outcomes. Our Refugee Mental Health & Place conference sought to highlight existing evidence and different forms of knowledge to explore how social, material, cultural, environmental, political and institutional dimensions and characteristics of places constitute and affect refugee mental health in a post-migration context.

The keynote speech, *The roots and impacts of the hostile environment in Britain: racism, discrimination and disposability* was delivered by Maya Goodfellow. Maya challenged us to understand how anti-immigration and asylum policies shape and are shaped by places which, in turn, exclude, marginalise and dispose of entire groups who are racialised as 'other'. She addressed pertinent questions of how we might conceptualise race and the detrimental consequences of the politics of 'labelling.'

The first panel, *Solidarities and networks*, featuring Elaine Chase, Rachel Tribe and Sohail Jannesari who explored collaborative and peer research projects and ways of

building partnerships between academia and refugee community groups.

The second panel, *Sexual and gender-based violence*, with Sandra Pertek, Jeanine Hourani, and Helen Liebling and Hazel Barrett focused on the pre- and post-migration contexts and the role of structural, institutional and religious frameworks in which survivors of sexual and gender-based violence seek healing and justice. Situated conditions of inequality were further discussed during the round table.

*Bordering higher education: Discussing experiences, practices and alternatives for refugees and migrants*, hosted by Francesca Meloni and Leonie Ansems De Vries and involving Fuad Trayad, Samuel Remi-Akinwale and Katie Barringer. The panel linked access to higher education and refugee mental health, showcasing how hostile environment policies can lead to a lack of empathetic and informed practices, and foreclosing access and pathways to higher education.

The panel on *Mental health and asylum systems* included presentations by Zara Asif, Brian Dikoff and Sara Alsaraf examining how asylum processes and bureaucracies stifle access to mental healthcare and immigration rights and justice. Precarious conditions were further examined in the panel *Role of place* which was presented by Ayesha Ahmad, Guntars Ermansons and Peter Schofield who showed how place-specific factors and conditions shape refugee mental health.

A powerful 'poetry break' allowed for different experiences and knowledges to be

discussed by foregrounding the voices of people with lived experience. Harnessing the power of poetic expression, Syed Haleem Najibi and Sayed Habib Sadat made explicit the harsh realities of migrant detention centres, exhausting asylum processes, existential suffering on the verge of life, and the power of inner resilience and support networks to shift direction of post-migration trajectories. Their experiences resonated with the presentations in the final panel, *Interventions, practices and critique* presented by Nazee Akbari, Claire Marshall, and Cornelius Katona who explored complex terrain of mental health and psychosocial support for refugees.

The conference with its diverse speakers and engaged audience opened up an ethical space for dialogue and new connections to challenge fundamental injustices that asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants face.

If you would like to join our mailing list, email [Guntars Ermansons](mailto:Guntars.Ermansons@kcl.ac.uk).

To listen to the conference recordings, please visit our Refugee Mental Health & Place network [website](https://www.refugeementalhealthandplace.org/).

The conference was supported by the UKRI Medical Research Council and the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health ■

# A year at Johns Hopkins



**Aki Ho (third year Global Health & Social Medicine BSc) spent a year studying at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, America. Here, she tells us about her experience.**



**A**s a forenote, I just wanted to mention that amidst this global pandemic, I have been extremely privileged to participate in the study abroad program at Johns Hopkins University. With COVID-19, there was much uncertainty about the program so I want to thank the department for the flexibility and the opportunity for me to follow through with this experience, as I felt the educational and social experience I was very fortunate to

gain, was of significant value to my personal as well as professional growth.

At Hopkins, I had the opportunity to take a range of different classes, which turned out to be invaluable. I selected classes such as Clinical Neuropsychology, and Behavioral Neuroscience (as I study the BSc Neuroscience pathway), which enabled me to explore a section of this field that I did not have the opportunity to focus into previously. I also chose public health classes, Medical Humanitarianism and Global Health Policy which were more seminar/debate based classes, as well as a graduate class on U.S. Healthcare Systems from the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Many of these class sizes were between 5–20 students so I really appreciated the opportunity to be able to get to know my professors on a professional as well as a personal level. Thus, the interdisciplinary choice of classes I was able to take complimented my academic interests in global health.

In addition to these classes, I had the chance undertake research in the second semester and extended it into the summer months. As Hopkins is a renowned research university, this was one of my

main objectives while abroad, and it certainly lived up to its reputation. 90 per cent of students whom I got the opportunity to get to know here are doing some sort of research based work. I worked as an undergraduate student research assistant in two ongoing projects alongside an extremely knowledgeable but welcoming team of clinicians and PhD students. The first is a clinical pilot study about Parkinson's Disease and related diseases such as Lewy Body Dementia. The second is a study on possible rehabilitation methods for motor diseases. I was provided with the necessary clinical and research methods training and certification to contribute firsthand to the research, and I was also fortunate to be working alongside a team that supported and tolerated my constant questions and gave me extra shadowing opportunities in their respective disciplines. This research opportunity was (and still is!) an incredibly challenging but gratifying work experience and I will probably forever credit it to helping me narrow down on future career goals.

In contrast to the university being integrated into the city like it is at King's, a unique aspect of Hopkins was the





campus life. During the summer days, it was common to see some classes being conducted outside at the Quads, and there were groups of students just relaxing or studying outside throughout the campus as well. University wide events such as Hoptoberfest and Spring Fair always had lots of food, games and concerts, and were a great way to feel like part of the community. It was common to see different societies set up performances or fundraising events during such events as well as throughout the year, so the campus always has something going on. Although I was not too heavily involved in a single society, I had the opportunity to be part of the Cognitive Science Society 'Omega Psi', and I joined the Ultimate Frisbee team to get to know some of the students here.

In summary, this study abroad experience provided an invaluable opportunity for me to explore new career goals, while enabling me to further expand and apply the knowledge gained from my years at King's. To top it off, I am sure that the memories I made with my friends here will be something I will treasure and for that, I am forever grateful ■



## Attending the Change Agents Network Conference

by **Taj Donville-Outerbridge** Global Health & Social Medicine BSc, GHSM Student Equality, Diversity & Inclusion representative

**The Change Agents Network Conference is an annual conference focusing on utilising student and staff partnerships to improve and innovate within academia. This year's theme was centred around sustaining and redefining student-staff partnerships during transformative times (in terms of both COVID-19 related impacts and social justice reform).**

I attended workshops with Maya Boustany, our Student Engagement Officer, which not only gave insight into the power of student-staff partnerships, but also set the framework for meaningful reflection and conversation about what our own program, school, and university have to offer.

The conference challenged us to think outside the box to both create ideas for new student-staff partnerships and to brainstorm ways improve the ones that already exist. A few common themes were ensuring that

students and staff are fairly compensated for all work they do; finding ways to empower and engage those 'quiet' students; and centring true inclusivity over diversity.

I was also able to connect my own experiences with those of the presenters and gain key insight into how to be a better student representative. I believe the conference has laid the groundwork for many new opportunities and improvements that will hopefully be implemented within GHSM and SSPP ■



## Sarah Hodges

# Professor of Global Health & Social Medicine

### *What's your academic background?*

Ever since my student days, I have worked at the interface of history and anthropology. Most of this work has examined the politics of health in Tamil-speaking south India, and I've lived in India for about seven years, all together (nearly entirely in Tamil Nadu). I studied in the US (BA Brown University, MA & PhD University of Chicago). After moving from India to the UK in 1998, I have worked in the SOAS History Department, the SOAS Anthropology Department, Cambridge's Department of History and Philosophy of Science, and, immediately before coming to GHSM, Warwick's History Department.

### *What's are you working on at the moment?*

Much of my current work is tied up with the Wellcome-trust funded research project I run, 'What's at stake in the fake? Indian pharmaceuticals, African markets and global health' [www.fakedrugsproject.org](http://www.fakedrugsproject.org). We are currently finishing up a special section for Medicine Anthropology Theory ('The long shadow of fake drugs in the social lives of fake-ness'), and are beginning work for a new special issue for Frontiers in Sociology (*Policing fakes*). I also continue to work on my project monograph, Small Pharma.

### *What are you most looking forward to in your new role?*

Being in a proudly interdisciplinary institutional space feels like coming home. I have had so many inspiring conversations with colleagues already and can't wait to have more. I find writing collaborative grant applications a lot fun and I look forward to putting in more bids and bringing in big money on a regular basis. Among other things, I will be teaching Critical Global Health in the autumn. That module looks like a blast.

### *When you're not working, what do you like to do with your time?*

I am a big fan of TV. And sleep. In that order.

### *Tell us a secret*

This is not, in fact, my first time working in the department. In December 1999 to February 2000, I had defended my PhD dissertation and found myself in London, working as a temp receptionist for ACIOG – also known as the Age Concern Institute of Gerontology. What a prequel! ■



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