

Research, Innovation and Enterprise: Shaping the future 2024-2025

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Research, Innovation and Enterprise

Hello and welcome to a special edition of Shaping The Future, where we focus on some of the diverse and impactful Research Centres at Oxford Brookes University.

At Brookes, innovation a impact converge in our vibrant research centres, dedicated to addressing the most pressing challe our time. In this special e we turn the spotlight on dynamic hubs of discove their groundbreaking effect tackle a diverse range of world issues.

From pioneering environ solutions to advancing healthcare technologies, research centres are at t forefront of creating mea change. Through collabo creativity, and commitme

Welcome to the future.



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JOSEPH H. M. TAH Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation

Impact of Research



Changing the Future of Cognitive Health: The Centre for Psychological Research

In an era of rapid social and technological change, understanding human behaviour and developing effective interventions are crucial. The Centre for Psychological Research exemplifies how interdisciplinary expertise can be harnessed to create innovative solutions that benefit society.

Facilitating Positive Change Through Applied Research

One of the Centre's core principles is developing resources to facilitate positive change. This is exemplified by Professor Anna Barnett's work on movement and handwriting difficulties. Her development of new assessment tools has had a global impact, aiding occupational therapists, health practitioners, teachers, and educational psychologists in better diagnosing and supporting children with these challenges. Such tools are essential for early intervention, improving educational outcomes, and enhancing quality of life. RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE | 5

Promoting Organisational and Cultural Integration

The Centre also aims to advance understanding of human thought, experience, and behaviour, as illustrated by Professor Vince Connelly's research on cultural shifts in organisational change. His work was instrumental in integrating part-time reservists with full-time regular British army staff, a reform that had previously stalled.

This research not only supports military effectiveness but also enhances the wellbeing and cohesion of military personnel, addressing broader issues of organisational behaviour and change management. These insights are also applicable to a wide range of sectors globally, promoting more effective and harmonious workplaces.

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Health and Wellbeing Initiatives

The Centre's research on health behaviour and wellbeing addresses global health challenges by developing interventions which contribute to global health initiatives aimed at reducing the burden of chronic diseases and improving mental health outcomes. One such project is the work of Dr Emma Davies on alcohol awareness and its link to breast cancer prevention. The project aims to raise awareness about how alcohol consumption is a modifiable risk factor for breast cancer and empower women with knowledge to reduce future cases. This study emphasises education on the risks and the importance of early intervention strategies to lower alcohol-related cancer incidences.

Untapped Truths: The Sobering Connection Between Alcohol And Breast Cancer

Dr Ellie Beaman talks with Dr Emma Davies about her research on the link between alcohol and breast cancer, helping women cut down or quit drinking.

Listen to the episode:



Enhancing Communication and Education

The Centre's expertise in developmental psychology and cognition is vital for improving educational practices and outcomes. A most notable project is the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI), which was coled by Professor Charles Hulme. NELI is a research-based program aimed at improving the language skills of children in early primary school. It focuses on supporting vocabulary, listening, and narrative skills, particularly for children with delayed language development. Delivered by teaching assistants, the program is designed to enhance communication abilities, which are critical for academic success and social development. The NELI project is widely implemented in schools and has shown positive impacts on early literacy and language outcomes.

Technological Innovations

Work by Dr Michael Pilling and Dr Sanjay Kumar is incorporating the use of gaming and chatbot technologies as digital interventions to mitigate against mental distress and to promote behaviour changes. The Centre is focusing on developing and employing such technologies in applied settings in order to establish effectiveness. Such innovations are particularly relevant in the digital age, where ease of deployment and scalability of such technologies mean that they can be a powerful tools in supporting mental health.



DR NAYELI GONZALEZ-GOMEZ Senior Lecturer in Psychology



PROFESSOR KATE WILMUT Professor of Psychology

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The Lung I-Act Project's Potential For Optimising Discussions About Clinical Trials

Dr Ellie Beaman talks with Dr Cathy Henshall about the Lung I-ACT project supporting lung cancer patients.





Transforming Healthcare through Innovative Research by improving Service Delivery and Patient Care: Oxford Institute for Applied Health Research

The Oxford Institute for Applied Health Research (OxInAHR) is a vibrant, multi-disciplinary research institute dedicated to addressing real-world challenges in healthcare. With a broad focus on improving service delivery, patient care, and population health, OxInAHR's world-class research aims to make a tangible impact on health outcomes. The Institute is committed to building research capacity in nursing, midwifery, social care, and allied health professions such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.



Research On Water Immersion During Labour And Birth

Dr Ellie Beaman talks with Dr Ethel Burns about her research on water immersion during labour and birth.

Listen to the episode:



Collaborative Excellence and Broad Expertise

Comprising three dedicated research centres, each with its own projects and expert staff, OxInAHR boasts a diverse pool of talent from across the University. Led by Professor Paul Carding, with other directors including Prof Eila Watson, Dr Patrick Esser, Professor Jonathan Tammam, and Professor Benita Oliver, the Institute leverages extensive methodological and clinical expertise. Researchers at OxInAHR work in a wide range of areas, including cancer care, child welfare, neurological rehabilitation, challenging health behaviours, mental health, and health inequalities.

Cutting-Edge Projects with Real-World Impact

OxInAHR's Supportive Cancer Care Research Group has implemented interventions that significantly improve the experiences and outcomes of

people living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis. Another interdisciplinary team has developed a conditioninformed framework for exercise and physical activity, influencing national and international approaches to neurological rehabilitation. Additionally, research on children missing healthcare appointments has highlighted gaps in routine follow-up practices, leading to improvements in child welfare protocols.

Engaging with the Wider Community

OxInAHR has a strong track record of securing external funding and fostering engagement opportunities with various stakeholders. The Institute's substantial Applied Health post-graduate research portfolio includes over 100 postgraduate students, reflecting its commitment to developing future health research leaders.

"The most significant impact of OxInAHR has been its contribution to advancing healthcare research. Over the past academic year, researchers published 87 peer-reviewed papers and secured over £1.25 million in grant funding. Our experts were contracted as advisors for NIHR Research Support Services and joined WHO's HEPA Europe network. In 2023, OxInAHR was recognised as a Centre of Applied Health Research Excellence in a book celebrating the NHS's 75th anniversary."

Professor Paul Carding, Director of OxInAHR

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PROFESSOR PAUL CARDING

Director of Oxford Institute for Applied Health Research



Scoping Answers to Global Questions: Centre for Bioimaging

Oxford Brookes' Centre for Bioimaging is equipped with state-of-the-art light and electron microscopes, as well as advanced sample preparation labs to generate insight into biological structures and processes. This platform underpins groundbreaking research to advance the understanding of diseases and treatments, contributing to global health improvements.

Dr Alan Marron, overseeing light microscopy, ensures that the Centre's equipment remains cutting-edge and well-maintained. A key aspect of the Centre's mission is its accessibility to both internal and external users. Brookes staff. students. and external researchers can access the Centre's facilities. Comprehensive training and assistance are provided, ensuring that users can effectively design and conduct microscopy experiments. Detailed guides, manuals, and online tutorials further support The Centre is directed by Professor Sue Vaughn, whose collaborations with users, fostering a collaborative research parasitologists, have secured multiple research environment. grants, enhancing the Centre's capabilities.

"The unique strength of the Centre for Bioimaging is that we can provide users with a range of light and electron microscope platforms, together with the assistance and planning for their experiments, all within the same unit. This allows us to support fundamental techniques as well as more advanced methods, and means that researchers can combine their core experiments with following more adventurous lines of enquiry."

Dr Alan Marran, Bioimaging Technician / Light Microscopy Specialist

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Director of Oxford Brookes Centre for Bioimaging

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Marrying Collaborative Research with Public Service: The Institute of Public Care

The Institute of Public Care's (IPC) vision is clear: to create a society where everyone has access to high-quality care that promotes health, resilience, and social inclusion. IPC is a catalyst for change in the public care sector by driving innovation, influencing policy, and developing the next generation of care professionals. For over three decades. the IPC has combined academic excellence with practical expertise to offer consultancy, training, research, and evaluation services.

Tailored Solutions for Complex Challenges IPC specialises in providing bespoke solutions for local governments, healthcare organisations, charities, and commercial entities to address the complex challenges faced by the care sector across the UK. Whether supporting children's services, adult care, or health services, IPC offers

tailored services that help organisations enhance their practices, solve critical problems, and implement cutting-edge innovations.

Data-Driven Insights and Professional Development

At the heart of IPC's approach is a commitment to data-driven decision-making. The Institute provides comprehensive research and evaluation services that inform policy development, improve service delivery, and ensure effective resource allocation.

IPC's professional development programs offer flexible training opportunities that equip public care professionals with the skills they need to address contemporary challenges, from management and leadership to specialised care services.

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Creating an Inclusive Society: The Centre for Diversity **Policy Research and Practice**

In an increasingly interconnected and that foster inclusive environments and diverse world, addressing issues of address discrimination. An example gender and diversity in the workplace is the ASPIRE project, which explores trans inclusion and retention in the such as organisational change, work-Science, Technology, Engineering and life balance, age discrimination, LGBT rights, and social mobility is crucial Mathematics (STEM) sector. The global STEM fields face significant challenges for creating equitable societies and in fostering diversity and inclusion. Trans sustainable economies. The Centre individuals often encounter systemic for Diversity Policy Research and barriers that hinder their participation Practice (CDPRP) plays a pivotal role and retention in STEM careers. in tackling these global challenges by providing evidence-based approaches ASPIRE aims to confront these to developing policies and practices challenges head-on by gathering in equality and diversity. comprehensive data and insights on the experiences of trans professionals in the **Evidence-Based Policy Development** UK and the US, with the aim to develop actionable recommendations that Policy decisions need to be informed can guide policymakers, educational by robust research to be effective. institutions, and organisations in creating The Centre's work ensures that more inclusive environments. policymakers and practitioners have

access to the latest research findings, helping them to implement policies

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Consultancy and Practical Interventions

Beyond academic research, the Centre engages in consultancy work that informs sectoral and organisational policies and practices. By acting as a 'critical friend', the Centre's researchers provide insights and advice derived from researchbased experience and knowledge. This consultancy helps organisations to develop effective gender and diversity strategies, mitigate potential risks, and create more inclusive workplaces. For example, researchers in the Centre have been working over the last eight years with Women in Racing Network to increase representation of women in the horse racing industry.

The research, led by Dr Kate Clayton Hathaway, received extensive coverage from national and international media. It was essential to establishing the first Diversity in Racing Steering Group and the appointment of a Head of Inclusion and Diversity. Furthermore, it spearheaded a cultural shift by taking active steps towards a better gender balance in British horseracing.

These developments instigated by the research findings have far-reaching potential, as British horseracing employs roughly 85,000 people, with women comprising an estimated 40% of its spectators. Sport matters: what people see on their TV screens influences what they believe and aspire to.

Leadership and Expertise

The Centre is led by Dr Charoula Tzanakou, and comprises a team of researchers with diverse expertise across fields such as business management, human resource management, legal, and organisational studies. This interdisciplinary team brings a wealth of knowledge to the Centre's research, ensuring that it addresses the multifaceted nature of equality, diversity and inclusion challenges. This year the Centre celebrates its 20th birthday, as it was founded in 2004 by Professor Simonetta Manfredi, who is currently Director for Research, Innovation and Enterprise at Oxford Brookes.

"One of the key challenges for CDPRP is navigating the evolving definitions and metrics of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) while ensuring our work remains contextually relevant and ethically sound. We must also translate our activities into impactful actions that foster inclusive and cohesive communities, thereby countering the current climate of increasing EDI backlash."

Dr Charoula Tzanakou, Director of the Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice

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DR CHAROULA TZANAKOU

Director of the Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice



Advancing Excellence in Coaching and Mentoring: The International Centre for Coaching and Mentoring Studies

The International Centre for Coaching and Mentoring Studies at Oxford Brookes University is a worldclass hub dedicated to addressing real-world challenges through the advancement of coaching and mentoring. Under the leadership of Dr Peter Jackson, the Centre drives innovation and excellence by producing impactful research and publications, delivering professional development programmes, and offering consultancy tailored to meet stakeholders' needs.

Engaging the Community

The Centre is dedicated to maintaining a dynamic and engaged community through a variety of events tailored to both research and practitioner audiences. By fostering robust connections with Brookes alumni and forging partnerships with public and private sector organisations, the Centre continually expands its network. This engagement is crucial for exploring practical applications of coaching and mentoring that directly address realworld challenges faced by individuals and organisations.

Collaborative Ethos

Collaboration is at the heart of the Centre's ethos, engaging with academic and professional bodies globally. It hosts the Oxford Brookes Coaching and Mentoring Society (OBCAMS), providing a platform for professional coaches and enthusiasts to discuss and develop their practice in ways that are responsive to current societal issues. Additionally, the Centre contributes a regular column on current research for the monthly magazine Coaching@Work, ensuring that the latest insights are accessible to a broad audience.

Real-World Impact

The Centre is also an active participant in the Sustainable Mentoring Network (STAMINa) project, offering a wealth of mentoring scheme case studies. These include the Radcliffe Department of Medicine Mentoring Scheme and the Women in Film & Television Mentoring Scheme. For external stakeholders. the Centre's consulting delivers stateof-the-art coaching and mentoring solutions. These include programme evaluations, accreditation of coaching practices through an MA programme, customised coaching courses, and assessment centres to validate coaching effectiveness, across all challenges and sector.

"The International Centre for Coaching and Mentoring Studies deeply values the integration of teaching, research and practice. As a result of this multi-dimensional approach, we are able to achieve disciplineleading outputs in each area including professional development, and we attract doctoral candidates from around the world. A small core supervision team leads on the supervision of over 45 doctorates."

Dr Peter Jackson, Director of the International Centre for Coaching and Mentoring Studies

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DR PETER JACKSON

Director of the International Centre for Coaching and Mentoring Studies



Innovating Solutions for a Better World: **Oxford Regions, Innovation & Enterprise Lab**

The Oxford Regions, Innovation & Enterprise Lab (ORIEL) at Oxford Brookes specialises in enterprise, entrepreneurship, and economic development. Focusing on three main themes - sustainable and responsible enterprise, the future of enterprise, and innovation and enterprise policy - ORIEL combines academic insight with practical solutions to drive positive change across all public, private and third sector stakeholders. ORIEL is led by Professor Tim Vorley.

ORIEL's impact is amplified through for workers, employers, and policymakers. collaborations in projects such as the Innovation & Research Caucus. ORIEL's online publications on the Oxford Brookes website are a freely available This Innovation Caucus connects academic resource for students, researchers, external researchers with policymakers and businesses to promote innovation and collaborators or anyone who wishes to stay economic growth in the UK. Funded by informed about their latest developments Innovate UK and the Economic and Social and solutions in pressing areas.

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Research Council (ESRC), it supports evidence-based policymaking by providing insights on various topics, such as business innovation, social and economic development, and digital transformation, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

A further notable project, the DIGIT Lab, explores how digital technologies are transforming work, employment, and business practices. Funded by the ESRC, DIGIT conducts interdisciplinary research to understand the implications of digitalisation

Director of the Oxford Regions, Innovation and



Championing Sustainable Development for a Better Future: The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development

The Oxford Institute for Sustainable **Development (OISD) focuses on** creating sustainable environments and communities, making a significant impact on global sustainability efforts.

OISD's work is organised around several key themes:

- Urban Planning and Design: OISD explores sustainable urban development practices that promote livable, resilient cities. This includes research on green infrastructure, sustainable transportation, and energy-efficient building designs.
- Environmental Sustainability: The institute focuses on preserving natural resources and promoting biodiversity. This research includes studying the impacts of human activities on ecosystems and developing strategies for conservation and sustainable resource use.
- Sustainable Architecture: OISD's architectural research aims to innovate building practices that reduce environmental impact. This includes developing sustainable materials, energyefficient construction methods, and designing buildings that integrate with their natural surroundings.



Solutions for a Low-Carbon Future

One of the more notable and highly topical, OISD is committed to educating the next OISD research projects is EnergyREV generation of sustainability leaders. which focuses on advancing the transition The institute offers a range of programs to low-carbon energy systems. It is a and courses that equip students with the research initiative that explores innovative knowledge and skills needed to address approaches to integrating renewable energy global sustainability challenges. These sources, improving energy efficiency, and educational initiatives foster critical thinking creating flexible, resilient energy systems. and innovative problem-solving, preparing The project aims to provide solutions and students to make a positive impact in their strategies for managing and optimising future careers. energy systems, supporting the shift towards sustainable and decarbonised Outreach energy infrastructure.

Global Impact through Collaboration

In September 2024, OISD hosted the Annual Conference on the theme of Sustainable and Resilient Built Environment. OISD collaborates with international The event was well attended with over 65 partners, including governments, NGOs, delegates, and featured keynote addresses and academic institutions, to implement and panel discussions covering vital topics sustainable solutions worldwide. These like climate resilience, net-zero design, and collaborations enable the Institute to apply planning for healthy neighbourhoods. The conference presentations, photographs and its research in diverse contexts, from urban key messages are available on the OISD centres in Europe to rural communities in Conference website. developing countries.

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Educational Initiatives

Director of the Oxford Institute for Sustainable



Pioneering Solutions for Global Development Challenges: The Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

The Centre for Development and **Emergency Practice (CENDEP)** comprises four research groups spanning critical areas such as disaster and climate change risk reduction, conflict transformation, human rights and refugee response, and inclusive development and humanitarian practice. **CENDEP** helps develop sustainable solutions that improve resilience and recovery in communities affected by crises.

Global Impact through Partnerships

CENDEP's extensive network of partnerships with international organisations, governments, and NGOs amplifies its impact and ensures solutions reach the most vulnerable populations. These collaborations enable the Centre to implement projects globally; for example, from post-disaster reconstruction in Nepal to urban planning or displaced persons protection initiatives in Africa.

Advancing Global Peace

The Conflict, Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding research group focuses on understanding the dynamics of conflict, humanitarian response, and peacebuilding efforts globally. Their interdisciplinary research examines the causes of conflicts, the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions, and strategies for sustainable peacebuilding. The group engages with policymakers, practitioners, and communities to influence practices and policies that promote peace and address the needs of those affected by conflict and crises.

Enhancing Resilience and Wellbeing

The Shelter, Housing, and Home in Crises research group explores the challenges of providing adequate shelter and housing during crises. The group focuses on understanding the impact of these crises on vulnerable populations and developing innovative solutions to improve living conditions in the context of disasters. Their interdisciplinary approach informs policy and practice, aiming to enhance the resilience and wellbeing of

Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Protection

The Human Rights and Forced Migration research group focuses on studying the human rights issues faced by refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons. They explore legal frameworks, social impacts, and policy responses through an interdisciplinary lens. Their research aims to influence policy and improve protections for affected populations.

Strategies for Post-Crisis Recovery and **Equitable Development**

The Inclusive Recovery and Development research group focuses on understanding and promoting equitable recovery and development processes in post-crisis and post-conflict settings. Their research emphasises the importance of including marginalised and vulnerable populations in recovery efforts and benefit from development initiatives. The group investigates strategies for inclusive economic, social, and political recovery, aiming to inform policies and practices that support sustainable and equitable development outcomes.

Education and Training

Education is a core component of CENDEP's mission. The Centre offers various courses and training programmes that equip students and

"The world is seeing new development and humanitarian challenges arising from conflicts, war, climate change, disasters and increasing socio-economic inequalities. The Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) will be responding to these challenges by developing cutting-edge applied research that furthers inclusive and just solutions, closely listening and working with women, men, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities. We will seek to promote human rights of affected displaced persons, refugees, and persons affected by disasters and climate change through interdisciplinary research methodologies and perspectives."

Dr Supriya Akerkar, Director of the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

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DR SUPRIYA AKERKAR Emergency Practice

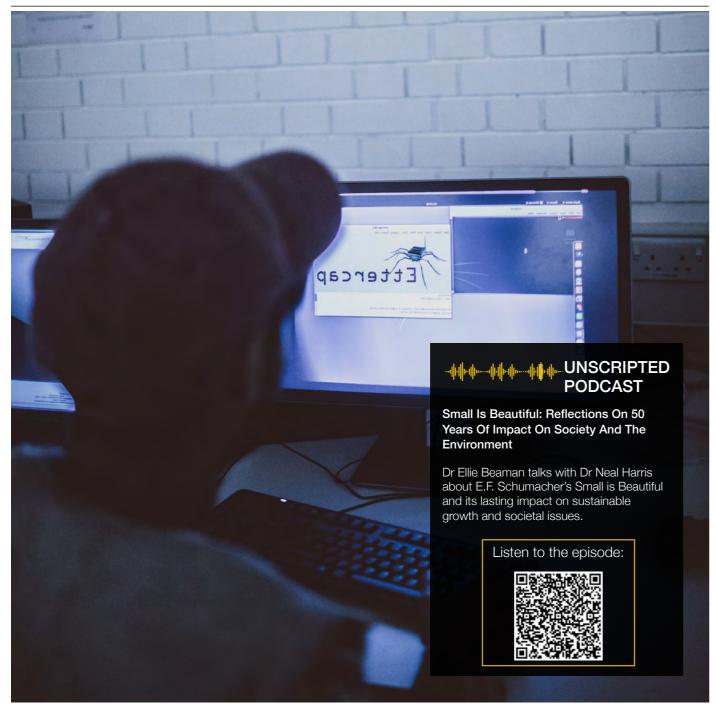
professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle global development challenges. These educational initiatives foster a new generation of leaders dedicated to creating a more equitable and resilient world.

Expert Leadership and Diverse Team

The Centre is led by a team of experienced researchers and practitioners who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise. This diverse group collaborates on projects that bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that research findings translate into tangible benefits for communities in need.

Oxford Human Rights Festival

CENDEP students, in collaboration with students from other units run the Oxford Human Rights Festival (OxHRF) every year. For the last 20 years, CENDEP has used the OxHRF as a platform to initiate discussions on human rights violations, enabling just solutions and showing solidarities with the oppressed and persons affected by conflicts. Art and innovative mediums such as film, theatre, music and interactive workshops are used to promote messages for a better world and sustainable peace. OxHRF events are open to the public and students engage and learn from dialogues and discussions with a range of stakeholders and changemakers.



Reflections on Social Transformation: The Centre for Global Politics, Economics and Society

The Centre for Global Politics, Economics, and Society (GPES), led by Dr Neal Harris, brings together four research groups, providing a crucial interdisciplinary forum to address challenges such as security threats, identity crises, and political upheavals. Through both theoretical and empirical lenses, the Centre offers innovative solutions and policy recommendations.

Tackling Security Concerns

In a world where conflicts, organised crime, and the private security sector are increasingly interconnected, the research by the Critical Security Studies research group, focused on developing strategies for conflict resolution and management, is vital. Their work on counterterrorism strategies and policies for managing organised crime in the Middle East directly informs and improves global and regional security frameworks.

Exploring Identity and Division

The Cultures, Identities and Divisions group investigates how personal, collective, and global identities are formed and transformed. This understanding provides insight into initiatives that promote social cohesion and multicultural understanding, thereby addressing some of the root causes of social division and conflict. In an era of globalisation and digital communication, understanding these identity formations is crucial for addressing issues such as xenophobia, nationalism and cultural integration.

Understanding International Political Dynamics

The International Political Theory research group focuses on the behaviour and nature of international actors and the international system, essential research for navigating the complexities of global politics, the dynamics of international relations, the

"Over the next few years, the Centre will focus increasingly on the social and political challenges associated with anthropogenic climate change: this is undoubtedly the biggest threat facing global society. In this endeavour, the Centre will platform emerging critical research by Brookes scholars, including our excellent PhD students, as well as inviting a host of world-leading academics to lead us in stimulating debates and discussions."

Dr Neal Harris, Director of Global Politics, Economy and Society

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impact of global governance structures, and the nature of power and authority on the world stage. By informing UK foreign aid policy and enhancing governmental understanding of Ukrainian politics, GPES helps shape more effective and informed international policies.

Examining State-Society Relations

The State and Society research group explores the intricate relationships between states and societies, covering themes such as populism, democracy, citizenship, and political parties. In the context of rising populism and democratic backsliding globally, this research is particularly pertinent. By examining these trends, GPES provides insights that are critical for strengthening democratic institutions and practices, promoting active citizenship, and understanding the impact of political parties on societal development.

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Addressing Global Challenges: The Centre for Environment and Society

The Centre for Environment and Society (CES) harnesses expertise across social sciences at Oxford Brookes to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing our world today from environmental crises to socio-economic inequalities.

One of the Centre's standout projects involves the Human Origins and Palaeo Environments group (HOPE) which collaborates with Jordanian researchers to enhance cultural resource management capacity. This initiative not only fosters the preservation of Jordan's rich historical heritage but also boosts local tourism and economic development. By establishing a research centre within the Department of Antiquities, the CES is directly contributing to sustainable development goals, including the protection of cultural heritage and the

promotion of sustainable tourism. HOPE has a long track record of working on Arabian heritage projects in Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Conservation Efforts Across Continents

The CES's impact extends beyond the Middle East. The Humans, Animals and Environments research group collaborates with NGOs, consultancies, and governments across Africa and Asia to support conservation initiatives. These efforts are vital in preserving biodiversity, combating climate change, and promoting sustainable land use practices. By working on the ground with local and international partners, the CES helps to implement effective conservation strategies that are tailored to specific regional contexts.

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PROFESSOR SIMON UNDERDOWN

Director of the Centre for Environment and Society



The Power of Words: The Poetry Centre at Oxford Brookes

The Poetry Centre at Oxford Brookes University hosts an exciting annual programme of events, including conferences, research seminars, workshops, exhibitions, poetry readings, and community projects. As a base for extensive poetry research, the Centre contributes significantly to the academic and public discourse on poetry. Its research spans from the 1500s to the present day, showcasing a rich historical perspective.

Real-World Impact through Poetry

The Centre excels at public engagement and collaboration with external bodies, running specialised internships and highlighting numerous literary events in Oxford. Within the Centre, the award-winning ignitionpress publishes original poetry from emerging poets in pamphlets, celebrating this essential publishing format and further extending the Centre's influence.

"Whether through local projects, international networks, or our award-winning pamphlet press, the Poetry Centre brings together critical and creative voices to explore poetry's unique capacity to challenge received ideas and enable people to see the world differently."

Dr Niall Munro, Director of the Poetry Centre

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DR NIALL MUNRO Director of the Poetry Centre

Dr Eric White's project on digital inclusion, in collaboration with poet Jay Bernard, has combined art and technology to help thousands of marginalised young people find a sense of belonging. Dr Dinah Roe's workshops for carers, based on her research into Victorian poet Christina Rossetti, have resulted in an online anthology and garnered significant media attention.

Leadership and Expertise

Led by Dr Niall Munro from the School of Education, Humanities and Languages, the Poetry Centre's research culture is highly active and impactful. The Centre's work on war poetry and the commemoration of conflict demonstrates the tangible impact academic work can have on public life. The Centre's team includes Professors Katharine Craik and Alex Goody, and Drs Claire Cox, Andrea Macrae, Dinah Roe, and Eric White, whose expertise ranges from American literature to creative writing and early modern literature to 20th century literature and culture.







Oxford Brookes' Innovative Journey in AI: The Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Data Analysis and Systems

the Visual Artificial Intelligence Laboratory Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping and recently became the Director of AIDAS. our world, driving innovation across industries from healthcare to autonomous Key Achievements and Research Impact vehicles. Its potential to solve complex Some of Professor Cuzzolin's notable global challenges makes AI not achievements include an EU-funded just a technological advance, but a project, Epistemic AI, which focuses on cornerstone of future progress. As AI enhancing artificial intelligence systems by continues to evolve, it holds the key to improving their ability to handle uncertainty transforming how we live, work, and and incomplete data. It aims to advance connect, underscoring its critical role Al's capability to make more reliable in shaping a smarter, more sustainable predictions and decisions in scenarios future for us all. In conversation with where data is sparse or uncertain. Professor Fabio Cuzzolin, Director The project involves developing new of the new Institute for Intelligence, methodologies and models to address Data Analysis and Systems (AIDAS) we these challenges, thereby pushing the explore how AIDAS is a key player in the boundaries of AI applications in various Al journey. fields, such as autonomous systems and decision support tools.

Early Career and Academic Milestones

Professor Fabio Cuzzolin began his career with a PhD in statistics from the University of Padova, followed by a postdoctoral position at UCLA's Vision Lab. This was succeeded by a role at France's National Institute of Computer Science. Joining Oxford Brookes as an Early Career Researcher, Professor Cuzzolin was promoted to Reader in 2011 and then to Professor in 2016. Since 2012, he has led

Another significant project involved collaboration with Cambridge's Department of Neuroscience to endow AI with a limited theory of mind, enhancing its ability to understand and predict the intentions and feelings of other agents. These advancements have potential applications in fields like autonomous driving and robotics.

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Goals and Vision for AIDAS

Looking ahead, Professor Cuzzolin talks about his vision for AIDAS including aims to centralise and coordinate AI-related research and teaching across Oxford Brookes. He expressed that the Institute will serve as a hub for interdisciplinary projects, enhance the university's research policy, and build partnerships with industry. It also plans to improve the research environment for graduate students by pursuing largescale grants and establishing a Doctoral Training Centre.

Challenges and Opportunities in AI

With a competitive landscape for Al research in the UK, Professor Cuzzolin highlighted that AIDAS seeks to differentiate itself through unique strengths like uncertainty modelling and the intersection of neuroscience and AI. The Institute aims to leverage its growing funding and partnerships to double its current growth and establish a sustainable research environment.

Engagement with the Turing Institute

Oxford Brookes joined the Turing Institute in August 2023, through which Anna Pilchuck, AIDAS Partnership Manager, serves as an academic liaison. The Turing

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Institute fosters collaborations between universities and industry, focusing on healthcare and defence. Professor Cuzzolin explained that Brookes aims to enhance its involvement through resource exchanges, student placements, and events hosted in collaboration with the Turing Institute. This collaboration promises to enrich the university's AI research landscape and offer students valuable opportunities for engagement with leading research initiatives.

AIDAS Next Steps

When asked about the impact and future direction of AIDAS, Professor Cuzzolin commented that the Institute's most central function is as a magnet for all things AI experts and scientists from a variety of applications to maximise the impact and visibility of our research.

He went on to emphasise that more needs to be done, in terms of establishing a clear channel for people across the University to approach AIDAS experts to kickstart new joint projects and collaborations, and in terms of expanding our network of external stakeholders and industrial partners.

Bringing Cutting-Edge Solutions to National Security Problems: Defence and Security at Oxford Brookes University

Defence and Security at Oxford Brookes University (DASOBU) was established to bring together government, industry and academia to address global challenges in the defence and security sector. Led

by Karl Kjelstrup-Johnson, the Centre applies interdisciplinary research and expertise to critical issues, such as hybrid warfare, cyber attacks and disinformation. With five core team members, DASOBU draws on expertise across the university for research projects, consultancy, and training, including CPD and workshops.

Launch of DASOBU

The Centre launched in Autumn 2023 at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) with over 150 UK Armed Forces members and NATO representatives. Professor Vince Connelly, a core team member and Programme Lead for Psychology, presented research on military reservists, veterans, and organisational psychology within the Armed Forces.

"We're entering a new era of collaborative research, one that directly addresses the security challenges of our time. We aim to drive innovation that is not only cutting-edge but also practically relevant."

Karl Kjelstrup-Johnson, Director of Defence and Security at Oxford Brookes University

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PROFESSOR FABIO CUZZOLIN

Director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Data Analysis and Systems



KARL KJELSTRUP-JOHNSON Director of Defence and Security at Oxford Brookes University

Professional Development and Training

DASOBU also focuses on professional development, launching the Analysis Modelling Simulation CPD course at the international Defence Simulation Education and Training Conference (DSET). This course attracted high-ranking military officials, industry practitioners, and PhD students, highlighting Oxford Brookes' expertise in Al and data analytics in defence.

Collaborating in Regional Defence Initiatives

As part of the OxBucks regional Defence and Security Cluster at Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, DASOBU is actively engaged in fostering collaboration. The Centre aims to set new standards for innovation, offering solutions to emerging threats and positioning Oxford Brookes as a leader in defence and security research.



For more information about research, innovation and enterprise opportunities at Oxford Brookes University please email rieenquiries@brookes.ac.uk

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