UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON

RESEARCHERS' WEEK PROGRAMME 2023

Annual Research Conference (ARC2023)
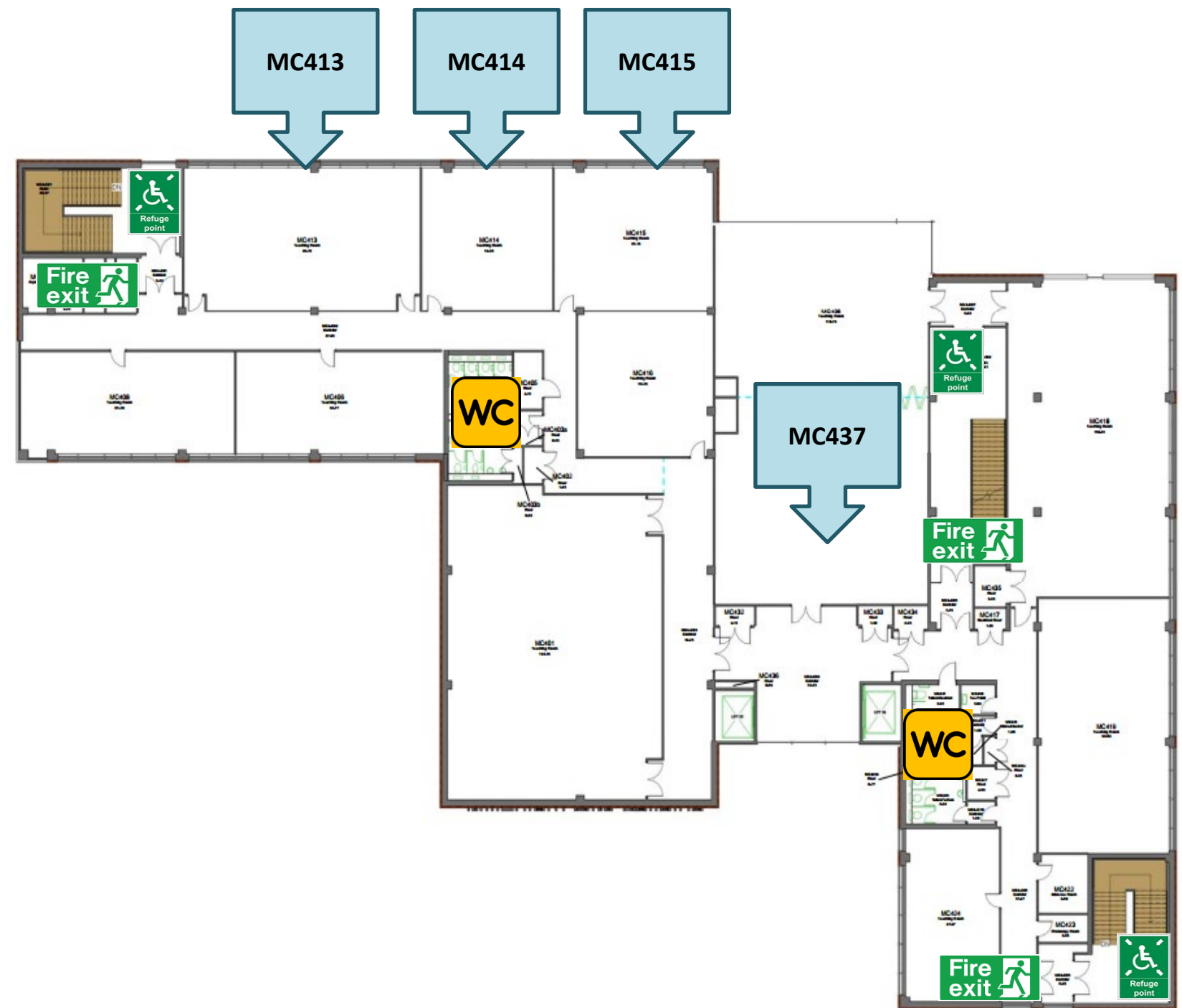12 - 13 June 2023

Researchers' Week Events
14 – 16 June 2023

CONTENTS

ARC FLOOR MAP

4th Floor, Millennium City Building (MC), City Campus

Welcome to Researchers' Week

This is a week of researcher development focused activities. The week starts with the Annual Research Conference and is followed by several days of research development activities and concludes with the Researcher Celebration Gala

ARC 2023

This year the conference follows themes aligned with UK and global contemporary challenges:

- Towards Net zero: addressing environment and climate change challenges
- Digital society: AI, Digitalisation and Data; Driving Value and Security
- Health, behaviour and social care research
- Resilience and sustainability: including related research to Cultural assets, Place & EDI

The conference also features the Research Student Poster Competition, and the Doctoral Depictions Photo Competition.

Note: The programme is correct at time of publishing but may be subject to change, please check back for the most up to date programme at www.wlv.ac.uk/arc

WELCOME to ARC2023

Monday 12 June 2023 at 9:00 am
MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building

Professor John Raftery
Vice-Chancellor

Keynote Speaker

Monday 12 June 2023, 9:10 - 9:50am
MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building

Professor Iza Radecka
Professor of Biotechnology
School of Life Sciences

From trash to treasure – role of microbes in circular economy

Mountains of waste, including plastic wastes are buried in landfill sites around the world each year. This continues to pose a growing challenge for authorities at both the local and national level. Microbes are key players in circular economy as they can convert waste into a range of products. This can contribute to better environmental sustainability through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing animal and human health.

Naturally occurring bacterial polymers have an enormous potential as they can be synthesised from renewable biogenic resources under well controlled conditions, and they also can be efficiently degraded. Over the past decades many biopolymers originating from various types of microorganisms have been reported. Ongoing research has increased rapidly the number of possible applications, ranging from food additives, polymeric controlled-release systems of agricultural products, and biomedical/pharmaceutical agents to biodegradable packaging, fashion industry, and even electronic components.

There are still challenges in developing biodegradable, high performance bacterial based materials. Attempts are therefore being made to find new ways to increase the rate and efficiency of microbial synthesis of biomaterials. This presentation will highlight the significant contribution that the Biopolymer Research Group at the University of Wolverhampton, together with collaborating institutions, is making towards these global issues.

ARC2023 SCHEDULE: Day 1 – Monday 12 June 2023

8:30-	**Registration & Information** (MC437)
9:00 – 9:10	**Welcome Day 1 – Professor John Raftery, Vice Chancellor** (MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building)
9:10-9:50	**Keynote: Professor Iza Radecka** - From trash to treasure – role of microbes in circular economy (MC001, Lecture Theatre)

Morning	Session 1 (MC415)	Session 2 (MC414)	Session 3 (MC413)
10:00-10:20	**Dr Dev Acharya, with Mr Prakash Adhikari, Mr Kumar Khadka** - Strengthening Nepalese Women's Access to Sustainable Livelihoods in the COVID-19 Context	**Dr Ayman Antoun Reyad** - The Efficacy and Safety of Daridorexant in the Management of Insomnia	**ICRD Seminar - Creating social impact through place-base research: Launching ICRD's new research themes**
10:25-10:45	**Dr Zhongliang Bai** - Complex association of self-rated health, depression, functional ability with loneliness in rural community-dwelling older adults	**Rye A. Greywood** - Immune system suppression in glioblastoma brain tumours	10:00 **Professor Laura Caulfield & Dr James Rees** - Introduction and launch of our new research themes
			10:15 **Siobhan Sadlier** - Network mapping to support survivors of domestic abuse
10:50-11:10	**Jiaqian Yin** - Association of advanced parental age with implantation failure: a cohort study in China	**Swee Yee Shea** - Transitioning the corporate insolvency culture from terminating companies to rehabilitating companies – Corporate Insolvency in Malaysia.	10:25 **Christiane Jenkins** - Substance-Use Disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery: Improving treatment outcomes for service users
11:15-11:35	**Alis Rasul** - Utilising the Critical interpretative synthesis literature review framework with other tools and frameworks		10:45 **Isha Chopra -** Evaluating the impact of the West Midlands Violence Prevention Partnership: Trauma Informed Training
11:40-11:50	**Dr Nazanin Khasteganan** - Comparing the effectiveness of High-Intensity and Conventional Weight Loss programmes on cardiovascular risk and well-being in adults with obesity	**Marc Smale** - Implications of Industry 4.0 on Education 4.0: challenges this presents to Teacher Educators and Teachers	11:05 Short break
			11:15 **Nicola Taylor-Brown -** Women and Criminal Justice:
11:55-12:05	**Sandra Pratt** - Cultural and Linguistic Connections	**Kumar Jayantilal** - 'Neoliberal Performativity and Primary Teachers' Lived Experiences': An Evolving Research Project	11:35 **Silke Marynissen -** Participatory music programmes in prison
12:10-12:30	**Kanishka Silva** - Authorship Attribution on Long 19th Century Novels using GAN-BERT	**Gavin Ward and Ronnie Richards** - Playing by White rules of racial equality: Student athlete experiences of racism in British university sport.	11:55 **Dr Joshua Blamire -** Tackling Inequality through Participatory Placemaking: Towards Heritage-Based Approaches to 'Levelling Up',
12:35-12:55	**Professor Mohammed Patwary** - Exploring Digital Inclusion for SMEs: A Case Study of Digital Enterprise	**Chioma Cynthia Ibeneme & Godwinner Arwill** - Racism, Discrimination, & Harassment in Dental Schools in the UK.	12:15 Speaker panel discission: Navigating complexity in community and social research
1:00-1:30	Lunch		

Afternoon	Session 4 (MC415)	Session 5 (MC413)
1:30-1:55	**Dr Tim Baldwin** - Conservation and floral biology of *Restrepia*: a botanical gem of the Andes	**Applied Cognition and Individual Differences Symposium** **Dr Tom Mercer and Dr Claire Jones** – Introduction. **Dr Claire Jones** – A latent profile analysis of Covid-19 conspiracy beliefs
2:00-2:25	**Dr Niall Galbraith** - Who puts their faith in complementary and alternative medicine? A psychological perspective.	**Anthony Byrne** – Adolescent conspiracy theory beliefs **David Martin** – Reasoning errors and misinformation susceptibility in adolescents:
2:30-2:55	**Prof Andy Lane** - Old dogs can learn new tricks! Comparing the effects of brief psychological skills training by age	**Dr Tom Mercer** – Memory and misinformation. **Short Break**
3:00-3:25	**Dr James Lovelock, Matt Powell, Nathan Shanley & Ash Collard** - Queer representation in musical theatre	**Dr Claire Jones** – Conspiracy theory beliefs and subclinical psychotic-like experiences
3:35-4:15	**Keynote: Professor Laura Caulfield** – Meaningful public involvement through Community Peer research: lessons from ICRD. Introduced by Dr Camelia Dijkstra, Head of Research Services (MC001, Lecture Theatre)	

Dr Dev Acharya, Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing
Mr Prakash Adhikari, Team Leader, & Mr Kumar Khadka,
Technical Advisor, Women Act/United Nations-Women, Nepal

Strengthening Nepalese Women's Access to Sustainable Livelihoods in the COVID-19 Context

In a male dominant society like Nepal, women encounter many socio-economic and personal problems. Women's entrepreneurship is a new concept and has recently gained recognition in Nepal. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 has badly affected micro-enterprises owned by women in developing countries. This project aimed to address the socio-economic challenges of small-scale businesses owned by Nepalese women in a value chain project.

A total of 1,934 community members were trained and mobilised in the community to raise awareness about the gender-based violence (GBV) damaging social norm and practices including the women's role as an economic leader in the family and local community.

The project reached 1300 women in the central and far-western region's municipalities between May-December 2021. These participants were provided with skill-based training as an alternative livelihood, for example 379 women were trained in the production of masks, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), linen, and sanitiser. A total of 1253 women received counselling on GBV referral services, legal support services, subsidised loan, and access to local financial institutions.

Opportunities and access to markets have strengthened the confidence of the project participants. Business lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic could be restored as women obtains skill-based trainings and support.

Dr Zhongliang Bai, Visiting Scholar
Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing

Complex association of self-rated health, depression, functional ability with loneliness in rural community-dwelling older adults

This study aimed to explore whether and how self-rated health, depression and functional ability interactively associated with loneliness, using a sample group of older adults residing in rural communities.

Data on socio-demographic information, self-rated health, depressive symptoms, functional ability and loneliness (quantified via a single question) were collected from 1009 participants.

We found that 45.1% of the participants were classified as lonely. Our results gain insight into the hierarchical order of predictors for the presence of loneliness, suggesting that there was a significant interaction between functional ability and depressive symptoms while self-rated health was not a significant factor. The probability of loneliness increased with the combination of limited functional ability and depression, and varied with different interaction of functional ability, depressive symptoms, and marital status, respectively. Notably, while there were some differences, similar associations were observed among older male and female respondents.

To delay or reduce loneliness, early detection which focuses on older people who report limitations in functional ability, depression, and being female, offers opportunities to start early interventions. Our findings might be helpful not only in designing and implementing loneliness prevention programs but also in improving healthcare for older rural community-dwelling adults the treatment of obesity.

Jiaqian Yin, Research Student
Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing

Association of advanced parental age with implantation failure: a cohort study in China

The average childbearing age has been rising. This study aimed to explore the interaction of paternal and maternal age on implantation failure in couples following their first cycle of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) treatments.

Anhui Maternal-Child Health Cohort Study recruited 2198 infertile couples who asked for ART treatment at the Reproductive Centre of the First Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University during the period of May 2017 to January 2022. This study analysed the data from 1910 couples.

Advanced maternal age was associated with increased implantation failure (P<0.001); compared to 20-25 those aged 35-<40 years had adjusted OR of implantation failure of 1.38 (1.01-1.89) and those ≥40 years of 3.91 (2.08-7.36). There was evidence of an interaction impact between maternal age (30-<35 and ≥ 35) and paternal age (≥35) on implantation failure (p<0.05). When the male was ≥35 years, increased maternal age was associated with the risk of implantation failure, the OR for maternal age 30-<35 years being 2.50 (1.12-5.54) and for maternal age ≥ 35 years 3.13(1.44-6.85).

Advanced paternal age is associated with implantation failure. The delay in childbearing of both men and women needs to be highlighted for public health messaging as it may contribute to a higher risk of implantation failure in patients needing ART.
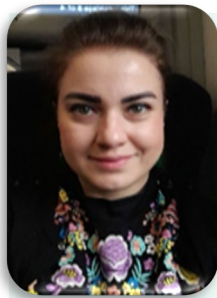
Alis Rasul, Research Student
Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Utilising the Critical interpretative synthesis literature review framework with other tools and frameworks.

Critical interpretative synthesis (CIS) was utilised for exploring the literature for my literature review question. The CIS supports in integrating and synthesising substantial amounts of studies through an interpretive strategy.

The process offers the ability to critically examine the studies context and the choices made by the author (Dixon-Woods et al, 2006) to support the critical examination positions the adopted model for problematization (Alvesson & Sandberg, 2011) was utilised.

However, there is a debate on whether we can use other frameworks and tools alongside CIS. I utilised the CIS review for my qualitative research study, and I will be providing an overview on how this was experienced and offer a rationale for use. I will also discuss the comparison and how the CIS was able to offer a more in depth analysis of my literature review.

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Dr Nazanin Khasteganan, Lecturer in Social Work and Social Care
Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Comparing the effectiveness of High-Intensity and Conventional Weight Loss programmes on cardiovascular risk and well-being in adults with obesity

The presentation outlines a proposal to conduct a randomised controlled trial to compare the effects of "health, not weight loss" (HNWL) programs and conventional weight loss (CWL) programmes on cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors. The proposal follows a systematic review and meta-analysis of existing RCTs, which did not show significant differences in improved CVD risk factors between the two approaches but did find improvements in body satisfaction and restrained eating behaviour in favour of HNWL programs.

However, the previous studies had limitations such as small sample sizes, high loss to follow-up, and limited outcome reporting, highlighting the need for further research. The proposal for the new trial includes methods for selecting and randomizing participants, defining the intervention and comparator, specifying outcome measures and analysis plans, and following CONSORT guidelines. The trial aims to address the limitations of previous studies by including a more diverse population, longer follow-up period, intention-to-treat analysis, and broader outcome measures. The report also describes a cross-sectional study that explored public attitudes towards HNWL programs, which found a positive response but was limited by a small and unrepresentative sample.

Overall, the proposed trial aims to provide more robust evidence on the effectiveness of HNWL programs in reducing CVD risk factors and improving overall well-being, which could inform clinical recommendations and potentially lead to new approaches in the treatment of obesity.

Sandra Pratt, Research Student
School of Social Science & Humanities, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

Cultural and Linguistic Connections

This short presentation will look at my research on British Sign Language (BSL) learners' perceptions of their language learning and cultural identity.

The research makes use of language portraits as a starting point, with discussions about participants' lived language and cultural experiences (Busch 2017). The use of 'portraits' as a method of research allows students to illustrate their languages and cultures in a visual way and then through an interview, express their lived experiences of language and culture. University of Wolverhampton students studying on the BSL course come with varied and rich backgrounds as well as cultural lived experiences. What do we find out when we explore these backgrounds and the diverse experiences which students bring? What sense of attachment do they have to the languages and cultures which have played a part in their lives?

Currently in my third year of part time study, I will put forward some of the analysis and findings identified in participants' 'stories'.

Kanishka Silva, Research Student
School of Engineering, Computing & Mathematical Sciences
Faculty of Science & Engineering

Authorship Attribution on Long 19th Century Novels using GAN-BERT

Authorship Attribution aims to identify the author of an anonymous text.

During other computational approaches of authorship attribution, the researchers did not account for forged or disputed data, yet the models were trained only on the original novels. The main reason is that it is difficult to generate such forged texts per author using manual or automated processes.

Since Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) are well known for addressing such forged or similar data generation, specifically in images and videos, we have utilised a GAN-based architecture to address these forged text scenarios.

Pen names and pseudonyms were used by authors when publishing literary works, specifically popular with 19th-century novelists. There have been many occasions where such literary works were wrongly attributed. In this study, we focused on the novelists published in the long 19th century, using a curated dataset from Project Gutenberg. We experimented with the GAN-BERT model to attribute novels from this dataset and applied transfer learning to improve the model's performance. Further, we have also performed a case study using ChatGPT to generate similar novels using the original novel texts of a few authors.

Professor Mohammad Patwary, Professor of Telecommunications
Digital Innovations and Solution Centre (DISC), Faculty of Science & Engineering

Exploring Digital Inclusion for SMEs: A Case Study of Digital Enterprise

The talk titled "Exploring Digital Inclusion for SMEs: A Case Study of Digital Enterprise" will share the lesson learned from the ERDF project Digital Enterprise (SOLVD)" primarily focused on the importance of digital inclusion for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The project aimed to identify digital needs and provide technology solutions to increase business productivity and engagement within the Marches LEP and Telford & Wrekin council.

The presentation will highlight the importance of digital inclusion for SMEs and how technology solutions can help solve industry challenges and create job opportunities in the digital sector. It emphasized the need for SMEs to embrace digital technologies to remain competitive in the market and to capitalize on the opportunities that come with digital transformation.

The presentation will emphasize the need for more initiatives like the Digital Enterprise project to support SMEs in becoming digitally included. It will highlight the role of policymakers, business support organizations, and technology providers in promoting digital inclusion for SMEs.
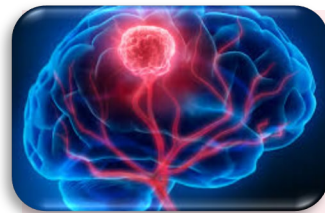
Dr Ayman Antoun Reyad, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology
School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science & Engineering

The Efficacy and Safety of Daridorexant in the Management of Insomnia

Insomnia is characterized by difficulties initiating sleep and early morning awakenings which impairs daytime functioning. Several sedatives/hypnotics are licensed for insomnia management but are associated with adverse effects that limits long-term use and use in specific population groups. Daridorexant is a new hypnotic expected to have a better side effect profile.

In this work, we performed a systematic review of literature followed by a meta-analysis of the available randomized controlled trials to examine its efficacy and safety for the treatment of insomnia. Our findings showed that both 25 mg and 50 mg intervention were superior in reducing Wakefulness After Sleep Onset (WASO) efficacy outcome in comparison to placebo (P<0.00001). Similar reductions in Latency to Persistent Sleep (LPS) were found for Daridorexant 25 mg and 50 mg (P<0.00001). Daridorexant was associated with a slight higher risk of somnolence - 25 mg (RR = 1.76) and 50 mg groups (RR = 1.82) and fatigue - 25 mg (RR = 1.97) and 50 mg interventions (RR = 1.40) that did not reach statistical significance.

In Conclusion, Daridorexant is a new medication that has shown efficacy in the management of insomnia with a favourable side effects profile.

Rye A. Greywood, Research Student
School of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science & Engineering

Immune system suppression in glioblastoma brain tumours

Glioblastoma (GBM) tumours are amongst the most dangerous of brain cancers, and can kill patients in a matter of months. Many new treatments have been tested in clinical trials, but generally the cancer returns once treatment stops.

What if we used the patient's own immune system to fight cancer? Most cancers put the immune system into an inactive state called "immunosuppression", and GBM is particularly good at this. If this suppression could be lifted, the patient's immune system could work alongside medical treatments to destroy cancer.

We created a shortlist of proteins made by GBM tumours that might be responsible for immunosuppression, and studied their presence in tumour sections. We found that one of our targets, which is called galectin-1, was made by over 80% of tumours at the sites where immune cells would enter. Next, we found aggregations of immune cells in the same regions, indicating that galectin-1 forms a barrier to prevent cells from entering the tumour. Finally, we exposed immune cells to this protein and found that it affected their activity.

We suggest that galectin-1 is partially responsible for immunosuppression in GBM, and that targeting it could allow the patient's immune system to work alongside medical treatments. Hopefully, this would facilitate longer lifespan and reduce the chances of GBM returning.

Swee Yee Shea, Research Student
Wolverhampton Law School, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

Transitioning the corporate insolvency culture from terminating companies to rehabilitating companies – Corporate Insolvency in Malaysia

Malaysia is considered as one of the fast-growing developing countries in Southeast Asia. From being a British colony transforming to be an independent democratic country, Malaysia aims to create a comprehensive insolvency framework that facilitate companies in financial difficulty and is in line with international standards.

However, there was no specific corporate rescue mechanism under the old Companies Act 1965. If companies were experiencing financial difficulties, the companies would have to be wound up under the winding up provisions or enter receivership. The companies could only rely on the scheme of arrangement to keep their companies alive. Nonetheless, the scheme of arrangement was not meant to be a corporate rescue mechanism in the first place.

Finally, the long-awaited corporate reform has brought in the Companies Act 2016. The new Act has specifically brought in corporate rescue mechanisms, namely judicial management and corporate voluntary arrangement, into the corporate insolvency framework in Malaysia to rehabilitate and restructure distressed companies which have a prospect of becoming profitable and viable. Therefore, a review of the provisions is necessary in order to evaluate the efficiency of the newly corporate rescue mechanism in Malaysia.

Marc Smale
Research Student & Senior Lecturer in Primary Initial Teacher Training
School of Education, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Implications of Industry 4.0 on Education 4.0: challenges this presents to Teacher Educators and Teachers

How digital prepared are we as a University? Aside from digital accessibility, should we be investing in staff development of technological pedagogical content knowledge (Mishra and Koehler, 2006) to embrace the predicted future? With the current transition to Industry4.0, and a resulting need and demand for Education4.0 upon us, how exactly are we as a University, more so teacher educators, equipping the future workforce?

For context, pupils currently in school Reception year will enter employment, at the very earliest, in 2035. It's predicted that over 90% of jobs will require competent digital skills (DCMS, 2017)).The trainee teachers that I educate will be responsible for these children to ensure they are equipped to meet demands for economic stability and prosperity of the UK.

Evidence suggests it's a teacher's technology self-efficacy that bears a strong correlation for emphasis and outcomes of improving pupils' digital competence (Fraillon et al., 2013; Fraillon et al., 2019). Likewise, pupils' acquisition of digital competence may be influenced directly by the technological experience of that teacher. Backfisch et al. (2021) identified teachers' perceived utility value of the technology is a more significant determinant in the quality dimension of integration, more so than self-efficacy.

Marc presents a summary of key findings taking aspects from his EdD literature review. The audience will be asked to use AI Chat Bot: ChatGPT - signup here:
https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt

Kumar Jayantilal, Research Student
School of Education, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

'Neoliberal Performativity and Primary Teachers' Lived Experiences': An Evolving Research Project

Neoliberal performativity has been known to force teachers to constantly organise, deliver and assess their work against performance benchmarks and accountability measurements. Typically, in the face of performativity, educators operate between the static logics of compliance and (partial) resistance. However, given a large proportion of the teaching sector are post-performative teachers – teachers who, themselves, have been educated, and taught to teach, in a performative era – teachers' lived experiences appear to be more sophisticated (including elements of enjoyment).

In this presentation, against a backdrop of performativity and (primary) teaching literature, I will elucidate my evolving methodological and theoretical ideas for my doctoral thesis. Although there is a huge corpus of knowledge regarding neoliberal performativity and educators, primary teachers have rarely been given a liminal space to contemplate their lived experiences, with performativity becoming increasingly naturalised.

Subsequently, and given my experiences of teaching under some terrorising performative regimes as a qualified primary teacher, I will give insight into this study's potential contribution to professional practice and, where possible, unique addition to knowledge.

Dr Gavin Ward & Dr Ronnie Richards, Senior Lecturers
School of Sport, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Playing by White rules of racial equality: Student athlete experiences of racism in British university sport

This presentation describes findings from part of a wider twelve-month research project commissioned by British University and Colleges Sport (BUCS). The research privileged the voices of non-White students and staff in an exploration of race and equality in British UK university sport. 'Non-White' was chosen as a race identifier to bring Whiteness into the lexicon of race talk.

In this study a research team of staff and student researchers explored the experiences of 38 students across five universities. Generating case studies from each institution, the data was analysed through a Critical Race Theory and Intersectional perspective. Two core themes relating to negotiating Whiteness were developed through thematic analysis: 'Play by the Rules' and 'Keep You Guessing'.

Racial abuse was subtle, camouflaged in comments and actions that happened momentarily and hence were implausible to capture and evidence. For incidents to be addressed, however, evidence had to meet a 'beyond doubt' standard. Students were required to consciously negotiate racial bias and abuse to ensure they did not provide a justification for the abuse. This mechanism of silencing the victim served to normalise racism for both the abused and perpetrator.

Conclusions identify potential ways of disrupting theses mechanism of Whiteness in placing students' welfare at the heart of university sport.

Chioma Cynthia Ibeneme, MSc Health and Social Care &
Godwinner Arwill , Master's Student in Public Health
School of Health and Community, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Racism, Discrimination, and Harassment in Dental Schools in the UK

Discrimination, racism, harassment, stereotyping, and bullying are significant problems for dental students as they initiate a hostile environment with negative effects on student wellbeing, educational experience, and academic progression. Evidence from the literature suggests that these are rarely and ineffectively reported.

This scoping review aims to map the trends, forms, and nature of discrimination, harassment, bullying, stereotype, intimidation, racism reported in undergraduate dental education in the UK since 2010, following the enactment of the Equity Act 2010 and to choose areas of focus for a future systematic study.

This study will follow the five stages of scoping reviews described by Arksey and O'Malley (2005). An electronic database search of MEDLINE, CINAHL, PUBMED and EMBASE will be conducted from 2010 to 2023. Only primary studies that report these keywords: discrimination, harassment, bullying; stereotype; intimidation; and racism within dental education in the UK will be included. Narrative synthesis will be used to present the scope, trends, forms, and nature of discrimination, harassment, and racism reported in undergraduate dental education in the UK. This would enable recommendations for interventions for addressing the issue of racism, discrimination, and harassment in Dental Schools in the UK.

The findings will highlight gaps in the evidence relating to racism, discrimination, and harassment in Dental Schools in the UK and possibly identify strategies to address these.

Professor Laura Caulfield & Dr James Rees
ICRD Directors

Creating social impact through place-base research: Launching ICRD's new research themes

Launched in 2017, the Institute for Community Research and Development (ICRD) works to improve the lives and life chances of people in the region through research, promoting social mobility and policy change, and by delivering effective community-based transformational projects. ICRD use interdisciplinary expertise to affect positive change by working collaboratively with local communities and partnership networks.

In 2023 ICRD revised its core themes to better represent the range of research and impact for the communities ICRD works with. As part of the launch of ICRD's new themes, this seminar/panel presentation will involve a series of short talks from early-career researchers in ICRD to showcase each theme. The series of talks will be introduced by the ICRD Directors.

Social and Community Well-being
Criminal Justice and Violence Prevention
Tackling Inequalities through Heritage and the Arts
Migration and Mobilities

Siobhan Sadlier, Research Student and Research Assistant
Institute for Community Research and Development

Network mapping to support survivors of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is a widely researched topic yet gaps remain in understandings of how communities comprising of family, friends, neighbours, relatives and colleagues respond to domestic abuse, particularly responses that could be characterised as a desired outcome of survivors and/or victims.

Findings in this presentation are based on a literature review that includes international contributions and the key fault lines emerging will be the focus of the presentation, outlining variations in definitions of community and what constitutes 'informal support' or 'reactions' of a woman's informal network. Salient questions emerge around who is more likely to engage with informal rather than formal networks such as police, health and social services and who is more likely to get a desired response from their informal networks and why this may be the case. Experiences of marginalisation, from racism to class, appears to pattern women's connections with informal and formal support where more white, middle class women connect with formal support and more marginalised women of colour and or lower income connect with informal support.

This presents an overarching question of whether these are women's preferred connections in an essential sense or perceived as the best compromise amongst available options. A further range of salient questions will be outlined around what the implications are for women and policy makers alike, of such varied perceptions of formal and informal support.

Christiane Jenkins, Research Student and Research Assistant
Institute for Community Research and Development

Substance-Use Disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery: Improving treatment outcomes for service users

"Recovery is contagious only through interpersonal connection—in the context of community" (White, 2010).

My PhD provides real-life community support to people in treatment from substance-use disorder (SUD) using a longitudinal and socially immersed method of research that investigates recovery outcomes.

The initial stage of my study works alongside the service users of SUIT (Service User Involvement Team), Wolverhampton, and delivers the creative arts as a pathway to support recovery. The SUIT Creative Arts Collective has been co-produced alongside my participants (my co-researchers) and enables service users to use art for support by introducing them to vibrant and productive networks, environments, and opportunities. Within my research setting, the creative arts contribute towards recovery capital, a concept that describes one's accumulation of positive skills and knowledge during recovery.

SUIT's Creative Arts Collective have taken part in this year's Wolverhampton Arts Festival, acquiring valuable recovery capital by using art and words to communicate personal experiences of addiction. The exhibition is an insight into how the creative arts build resilience and contribute to transitions of identity that value health, wellbeing, and recovery. My completed research will have impact for policy making, through service user voice, contributing to the wider landscape of understanding addiction, treatment, and recovery.

Isha Chopra, Research Associate
Institute for Community Research and Development

Evaluating the impact of the West Midlands Violence Prevention Partnership: Trauma Informed Training

This presentation explores one evaluation strand within the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership evaluation, led by the ICRD. The evaluation presents a continuation of the evaluation of the Trauma Informed (TI) training for police officers in the West Midlands since November 2022 to February 2023.

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (WM-VRP) has commissioned and delivered the bespoke TI training since 2020, aiming to facilitate a deeper understanding of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma within the West Midlands Police. Using pre- and post-training surveys and semi-structured interviews with 14 police officers and sergeants, this evaluation shows statistically significant improvements in all seven factors measured by the Trauma Aware Policing TAPAS survey, indicating that the training was effective in improving police officers' knowledge, responses, behaviours, self-efficacy, reactions to work, and personal and system-wide support for trauma-informed care.

While the qualitative results suggest that the TI training programme has a positive influence on police practice, the quantitative data are limited in providing conclusions regarding the long-term retention of knowledge and embedment of trauma-informed practice, highlighting the need for further efforts to provide TI training to police officers and senior management.

Nicola Taylor-Brown, Research Student and Lecturer
Institute for Community Research and Development

Women and Criminal Justice

Almost 60% of women in custody and supervised in the community have experienced or are currently experiencing DA (MOJ, 2023). The Trauma often experienced throughout these women's lives, makes them amongst the most vulnerable members of society and the complexity of their needs often begin long before they have any interactions with the criminal justice system (CJS).

The issues which lead to offending should be identified and tackled directly by criminal justice professionals and women's only organisations which could allow solutions to be formulated. Improving access to women's only centres and multi-agency collaborations are one way of moving forward. Yet these issues are intensified when women are placed in prisons without the root causes being addressed. Female prisoners are then released after short sentences and then the cycle continues.

The aim of this research is to discover what the professional's view as important and challenging in identifying and responding to the women's needs, explore the role that women's organisations play in supporting women who have come into contact with the criminal justice system and explore the role that probation officers play in supporting women to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society.

Silke Marynissen, Visiting Scholar, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Institute for Community Research and Development

Participatory music programmes in prison: How, why, for whom and under which circumstances do these programmes work?

Research on participatory music programmes in prison has been growing in popularity due to their mentioned contribution to positive outcomes for incarcerated participants, such as facilitating self-development, providing connections. To conceptualise participatory music programmes, this PhD research follows the definition of Torino (2009, 2016) where emphasis lies on an active contribution to the music event by for instance singing, playing an instrument, or clapping. Participatory music programs in prison can thus be understood as programs where incarcerated participants actively make music themselves in a group setting.

Despite the positive outcomes mentioned in previous research on participatory music programmes in prison, it remains under investigated how, why, for whom and under which circumstances participatory music programs work.

Based on preliminary findings from a realist synthesis and theory-gleaning interviews (i.e., exploratory interviews to develop an understanding of how a programme is expected to work), a deeper understanding is provided into the outcomes for incarcerated participants, as well as the underlying mechanisms (e.g., providing a safe space, the use of a Freirean pedagogy) and contextual factors (e.g., the background of the facilitator, the prison system) that trigger these outcomes.

Dr Joshua Blamire, Research Associate
Institute for Community Research and Development

Tackling Inequality through Participatory Placemaking: Towards Heritage-Based Approaches to 'Levelling Up'

Despite considerable investment within the sector, little is known about community engagement with heritage, and the potential outcomes are rarely married with key policy agendas concerning social polarisation and inequality, most recently articulated through the Levelling Up agenda. Working with Heritage Lincolnshire, Historic England and other place-based partners, this project explores the value of community heritage for addressing social exclusion, enhancing health and wellbeing, and reviving a sense of civic pride and belonging.

Our previous work highlights how participation in community heritage projects contributes to multiple personal development outcomes for individuals, provides unique opportunities for fostering identity and belonging, and empowers people to reinterpret and re-present the places where they live. Through this, participation can contribute to building strong cohesive communities, promote social mobility, and equip people to stay residing in 'left behind' places, to stake a claim to them, and to contribute towards their revival. These outcomes each align with recent policy ambitions to cultivate 'pride in place'.

In this project, a group of 6-12 participants living in Boston, Lincs. will co-curate an exhibition which explores the diverse cosmopolitan heritage and hidden histories of the town (entitled Cosmopolitan Boston) through an exploration of neighbourhood and community heritage using oral histories, the collation of materials and artefacts, and archival research. The participants will become 'community researchers' tasked with gathering and interpreting the materials for a public exhibition, workshop, or other output. We then examine the potential for this model of heritage work to achieve the above outcomes.

Speaker panel discission: Navigating complexity in community and social research

The seminar will conclude with a panel discussion, led by the ICRD Directors.

Dr Tim Baldwin, Reader in Plant Cell Biology
School of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science & Engineering

Conservation and floral biology of *Restrepia*: a botanical gem of the Andes

Climate change and alterations in land use are causing potentially irreversible changes to the natural environment, which could lead to the extinction of a plethora of plant and animal genera.

One such genus is *Restrepia*, a small group of orchids comprised of 61 species, indigenous to the Andean montane rain forests of Central and South America, which is under severe environmental threat, due to changes in climate and deforestation.

With resulting increasingly fragmented habitats and dwindling numbers, the pollination biology of obligate out-breeding plants, such as *Restrepia*, may no longer function efficiently which could potentially lead to their demise.

In light of which, this presentation will provide an overview of the results obtained from and ongoing, long-term programme of research, performed in collaboration with the University of Birmingham and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on the reproductive biology, and conservation of this little known, exquisite orchid genus.

Dr Niall Galbraith, Reader in Health Psychology
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Who puts their faith in complementary and alternative medicine? A psychological perspective

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is diverse but some forms are reported as no more effective than placebo (NHMRC, 2015). Therefore, it is important to understand why people put their faith in them.

Previous studies show that those who rely more on an intuitive/emotive thinking style are more likely to endorse pseudo-scientific concepts. In the current study, a large, online survey (N = 800) tested whether thinking style, cognitive ability and self-perceived thinking style predicted faith in CAM.

In contrast to previous studies, actual thinking style was mostly unrelated to faith in CAM. Cognitive ability was not related to faith in CAM either. Those who thought of themselves as intuitive thinkers (as opposed to mostly rational/analytical thinkers) and women (more than men) were more likely to have faith in most types of CAM.

Notably, tests of actual thinking style and self-perception of thinking style were not related – actual thinking style often does not match perceived thinking style. Unlike belief in other types of pseudo-science, belief in CAM depends not on how you think, but on how you think you think. Implications for future directions will be discussed.

Professor Andy Lane, Professor of Sport
School of Sport, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Old dogs can learn new tricks! Comparing the effects of brief psychological skills training by age

Ageing comes with an inevitable decline in our physical and mental capacity. Government agenda in many countries is focussed on and maintaining a high quality of life. We consider this issue by investigating the effects of learning psychological skills to perform a cognitive test.

From data collected online, 74,205 participants completed an online performance test which required participants identify numbers in a randomly assorted grid as quickly as possible. Participants completed 4 different tests and before the final 2 attempts, underwent brief psychological skills training or an active control (n = 46,819) with 13,864 participants in a no-treatment group. Age data was divided into 4 groups; 27,299 were in the 16-29 age group, 23,483 aged 30-49 years, 9,259 aged 50-67 years, and 642 in the 68-92 years age group.

Repeated measures ANOVA results showed following a brief psychological skills training was associated with faster performance. Although younger participants were significantly faster than older participants. However, the absence of a significant interaction for older participants indicates that they also benefited from engaging in brief psychological skills training. As psychological skills are associated with enhanced performance and range of positive mental health outcomes, finding offer encouraging results for focusing future work on teaching psychological skills to elderly participants.

Dr James Lovelock, Senior Lecturer in Performing Arts, Matt Powell, Nathan Shanley & Ash Collard, Research Students
School of Creative Industries, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

Queer representation in musical theatre

Our current RIF4 project aims to build our reputation for research excellence in community research in performance practice within marginalised communities through developing research methodologies that support and amplify minoritized voices in performance practice to promote social change within the musical theatre industry. Our work is interdisciplinary between social policy, sociology, media and the creative industries and forges links with regional and national industry partners including theatres, producers, directors and performers.

Dr James Lovelock utilises empirical interviews to enable a broad range of voices to be represented within their forthcoming monograph LGBTQ+ characters and queer representation in contemporary musical theatre.

Matt Powell (they/he/she) is a theatre producer that specialises in queer work. They are currently working on a PhD titled A Place Where They Belong: Creating, developing and producing queer representation in musical theatre.

Nathan Shanley (he/they) is currently writing a musical that explores the concept of non-binary thinking through the eyes of a non-binary protagonist. Their practice forms part of their PhD titled A Place For Us: non-binary identities in musical theatre.

Ash Collard (he/him) is researching a PhD on improving access and creating safe environments for trans male and trans masculine people in the musical theatre industry.

This presentation will introduce our research and consider how we can enhance queer representation and spaces within the musical theatre industry.

Applied Cognition and Individual Differences Symposium

Staff and student members of the Applied Cognition and Individual Differences Research Cluster will share their completed or ongoing research.
The talks will be introduced by Dr Tom Mercer and Dr Claire Jones.

Dr Claire Jones, Senior Lecturer in Psychology
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

A Latent Profile Analysis of Covid-19 Conspiracy Beliefs

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, attention was drawn to conspiracy theories. To date, research has largely examined commonalities in conspiracy theory belief, however it is important to identify where there may be notable differences. The aim of the present research was first to distinguish between profiles of COVID-19 conspiracy belief and explore demographic, social cognitive factors associated with these beliefs. Secondly, we aimed to examine the effects of such beliefs on adherence to government health guidelines during the pandemic.

Participants (N = 319) rated well known COVID-19 conspiracy theories and completed other social cognitive measures. Participants also rated the extent to which they followed government health guidelines.

Latent profile analysis suggests three profiles of COVID-19 conspiracy beliefs with low, moderate, and high COVID conspiracy belief profiles and successively stronger endorsement on all but one of the COVID-19 conspiracy theories. Those holding stronger COVID-19 conspiracy theory beliefs are more likely to reason emotively, feel less socio-political control, mistrust others, have lower verbal ability and adhere less to COVID-19 guidelines. The implications of these findings are discussed further.

Anthony Byrne, Research Student
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Adolescent Conspiracy Theory Beliefs

Academic interest in conspiracy theory beliefs has increased significantly over the last ten years. The literature reports correlations with a wide range of factors, including schizotypy, personality traits, thinking style, and pattern perception. However, the existing studies are overwhelmingly carried out with adult samples, and as a result there is very little knowledge of how conspiracy theory beliefs present in adolescent populations and which factors influence the uptake of such beliefs.

To assess the extent of research using adolescent samples, a systematic review of the literature was conducted. A total of six studies were identified and allocated to four categories: COVID-19 conspiracy theory beliefs, HIV conspiracy theory beliefs, intergroup conspiracy theory beliefs, and generic conspiracy theory beliefs.

The results of the review reveal a deficit in adolescent studies and, given the cognitive plasticity and development of personality and individual differences seen in adolescence, the results highlight the need for further work in this area.

David Martin, Research Student
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Reasoning Errors and Misinformation Susceptibility in Adolescents: An Exploratory Study

Online misinformation has been classed as one of the biggest future global risks to the economic, environmental, technological, and institutional systems on which we rely.

Categorised as false or inaccurate information, regardless of intentional authorship; misinformation has been a prominent factor in undermining the public's understanding of science across a range of domains and societal events.

Two competing theoretical frameworks exist to attempt to capture susceptibility to misinformation, classical vs motivated reasoning, however the overlap between these two theories needs further investigation. Additionally, although our understanding of the science of misinformation is rapidly developing, much by way of research has largely focused on adult population samples.

The present study has been designed to explore several cognitive, social and demographic factors linked with the classical vs motivated reasoning accounts, which may predispose adolescents to exposure and susceptibility.

Dr Tom Mercer, Senior Lecturer in Psychology
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Misinformation and memory

Misinformation poses a significant threat to society, spreading faster and deeper on social networks than factual content. Despite efforts to debunk certain mis/information, pre-bunking offers an effective solution whereby people can be 'inoculated' against such misinformation (one example is the "Bad News" game).

Recent research that has examined inoculation theory as a method of tackling harmful misinformation has had positive. It is also possible that inoculation techniques may affect how misinformation is processed and remembered, yet this has rarely been considered in efforts to tackle misinformation, despite it being potentially important.

A series of studies are now planned to explore the links between misinformation, inoculation and memory. The present talk will explain the concept of this project and outline some of the intended experiments.

Dr Claire Jones, Senior Lecturer in Psychology
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Conspiracy theory beliefs and subclinical psychotic-like experiences

Belief in conspiracy theories have been brought to the fore in recent years. In particular, this has been influenced by salient global events (e.g. Covid-19), misinformation and mistrust of authorities and perceived powerful groups. Consequently, there has been much academic interest in understanding why people believe such theories.

It is of increasing importance to understand the mechanisms that drive belief in conspiracy theories because research has shown that these can have harmful effects for individuals, groups and society. Additionally, there is potential to learn from the psychosis literature because many of the processes that underpin conspiracy thinking, are consistent with those found in the psychosis literature.

This study, funded by the Lord Paul Fellowship at the University of Wolverhampton, aimed to first, examine some of those commonalities and second, highlight the implications for public health and for people who may be at increased risk for developing clinical disorder.

Keynote Speaker

Monday 12 June 2023, 3:35 - 4:15pm
MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building

Professor Laura Caulfield
Director of the Institute for Community Research and Development

Meaningful public involvement through Community Peer research: lessons from the Institute for Community Research and Development

In this keynote talk, Professor Laura Caulfield will share experiences from the Institute for Community Research and Development (ICRD) in working with Community Peer researchers. The talk will explore the substantial benefits and also the challenges of working in this way.

Researchers across a variety of disciplines will be familiar with the growing emphasis on public involvement in research right from the design stages, through delivery of research projects, dissemination, and impact. The National Institute for Health Research, for example, sets out clear standards for public involvement in research and the benefits of this are clear.

Work within ICRD, and with our partner organisations, extends concepts of public involvement by seeking to embed Community and Peer Researchers within and throughout the research process. In this way ICRD has been able to meaningfully engage less heard voices, resulting in research that has greater benefit for our communities. The talk will explore the rationale for the current focus on public engagement in research, will delve into notions of co-production and power dynamics, and will consider case studies from ICRD.

The case studies shared in the talk will highlight key approaches and practical concerns when embedding Community and Peer research. The case studies will also exemplify the learning that ICRD has have gained from working with Community Peer researchers. The talk will conclude with a call for colleagues to consider the potential value of Community Peer research to their own research and to the communities around us.

ARC2023 SCHEDULE: Day 2 – Tuesday 13 June 2023

8:30-	**Registration & Information** (MC437)	
9:00-9:10	**Welcome Day 2 – Dr Ben Halligan, Director of the Doctoral College** (MC001, Lecture Theatre)	
9:10-9:50	**Keynote: Professor Tracey Devonport** - Cross Context Learnings: The Value of Examining Emotional Eating in Different Contexts Introduced by Dr Camelia Dijkstra, Head of Research Services (MC001, Lecture Theatre)	
	Session 1 (MC413)	**Session 2 (MC415)**
10:00-10:20	**Dr Tina Smith** - Monitoring Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease to Improve Quality of Life	**Prof Laura Ugolini** - Who Cares? Men, mental illness and middle-class families in England, c. 1900-1918
10:25-10:45	**Dr Wendy Nicholls** - Digital consultations for weight management in the NHS: A qualitative evaluation	**J Michael Phillips** - War in Ukraine: the legacy of the Prussian artillery revolution of 1860-1875.
10:50-11:10	**Monika Borchardt** – Meaning-making processes and wellbeing amongst hospice-based paediatric palliative care nurses. [Pecha Kucha]	**Sheila Passey** - Using Historical Fiction as a Means to Protect Women's Herstories
	Dr Lisa Orchard - Assessing Breastfeeding Attitudes: A Scale Validation [Pecha Kucha]	
11:15-11:35	**Dr Supreet Uppal & Dr Niall Galbraith** - Perceptions of mental wellbeing among Sikhs in the UK: a national survey	**Annette Linda Hutton** - Examining Absence in First World War Commemoration [Online]
11:40-12:00	**Dr Melanie Best** - Getting DEAP with Disability	
12:05-12:25	**Jenny Koehring** - How do you sign 'intelligence'? Deafness, sign language, and their impact on psychometric testing	
12:30-1:00	**Lunch**	
1:00-3:30	**Research Student Poster Competition & Exhibition (MC437)**	
	~~**Keynote: Professor Sebastien Groes -** "Or Do I Treat You Like a Vacuum Cleaner?" How Digital Inequality Will Shape Our Futures (If We Let It) Introduced by Dr Ben Halligan, Director of the Doctoral College (MC001, Lecture Theatre)~~ [Cancelled]	
3:30-4:10	**Conference Closing & prizes** - **Dr Ben Halligan, Director of the Doctoral College** (MC001, Lecture Theatre)	

WELCOME to ARC2023 Day 2

Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 9:00 am
MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building

Dr Benjamin Halligan
Director of the Doctoral College

Keynote Speaker

Tuesday 13 June 2023, 9:10 - 9:50am
MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building

Professor Tracey Devonport
Professor of Applied Sport & Exercise Science
School of Sport

Cross Context Learnings: The Value of Examining Emotional Eating in Different Contexts

Utilising my research undertaken with University of Wolverhampton colleagues, along with anecdotes and audience contributions, this interactive talk seeks to highlight the benefits of cross-context reading and research in developing a deeper understanding of phenomena.

To illustrate this, the focus of this talk is to examine research exploring emotional eating in different contexts:
1) clinically obese Binge eating disordered patients,
2) high-level combat sport athletes, and
3) the general public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emotional eating has been defined as the tendency to overeat in response to negative emotions such as anxiety or irritability. However, emotional eating has also been evidenced in response to pleasant emotions, and so all emotions must be accounted for in examining this phenomenon. Having presented key findings from two systematic reviews of emotional eating, lived experiences attained through interviews with participants will be presented.

Thereafter, implications for the development of interventions intended to manage unhelpful emotional eating will be discussed, with reference to the findings of a brief online intervention delivered internationally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Tina Smith, Senior Lecturer in Biomechanics
School of Sport, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Monitoring Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease to Improve Quality of Life

Symptom monitoring in Parkinson's is identified as a priority by people living with Parkinson's and a top ten research priority. We have a prototype device which we are adapting with people living with Parkinson's, academics, engineers and clinicians for people living with Parkinson's, to enable effective symptom monitoring at home. The end product will provide a way to meaningfully monitor symptoms that will assist people living with Parkinson's to improve their quality of life on a day-to-day and long-term basis.

This presentation will demonstrate how we are innovating our existing prototype, through co-design with key stakeholders. Also, illustrate the potential of the device, that we are unlocking by working collaboratively with the end users and beneficiaries.

This work is supported by the UKRI Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, Healthy Ageing Challenge, Catalyst Awards [grant number ES/X006557/1]

Wendy Nicholls, Reader in Applied Health Psychology
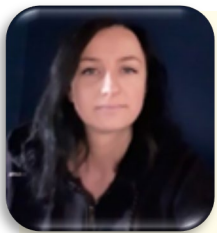School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Digital consultations for weight management in the NHS: A qualitative evaluation

Receiving digital healthcare consultations, in place of in-person appointments, has proliferated in recent years, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of the present study was to investigate patients' experiences of digital services provided by the National Health Service (NHS), with a particular focus on weight management services. Particular emphasis was placed on examining the perceived benefits and limitations of digital services so as to identify potential means of improving provision.

Sixteen patients (eight male; eight female) accessing digital consultations at one of two West Midlands (UK) NHS trusts, participated in semi-structured interviews. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and analysed via thematic analysis.

We identified three overarching themes and associated sub-themes that reflect the perceived benefits and limitations of service provision as identified by patients. These were technology acceptability (sub-themes 'challenges', 'requirements/facilitators', and 'beneficial features'); treatment acceptability (sub-themes 'treatment features', 'patient attributes', and 'practitioner skills'); and treatment efficacy (sub-themes 'treatment features', 'patient attributes', and 'practitioner skills').

Recommendations for practice will be discussed, which, whilst focussed on weight management, offer important considerations for all allied healthcare professionals who are conducting their consultations through digital platforms. Recommendations are intended to enhance acceptability of technology for NHS treatment, potentially encouraging engagement, and increasing treatment efficacy.

Monika Borchardt, Research Student
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Meaning-making processes and wellbeing amongst hospice-based paediatric palliative care nurses. An existential-phenomenological- ethnographic exploration.

How do paediatric palliative care nurses perceive and manage the impact of providing care for the deceased children within colling facilities on own wellbeing? And how those experiences relate to the nurses' processes of meaning-making in one's life?

Underpinned by the continuing bonds theories, cooling facilities are recognised as a bereavement intervention. They offer time, place, and space for families to process the parting, and experience the transition of their child from the 'world of living' to the 'world of dead'.

Paediatric Palliative Care Nurses (PPCN) look after children on the End-of-Life pathway, which include caring for their bodies after death in cooling facilities and providing support to the families. Although stress, burnout, compassion fatigue, or resilience, coping and posttraumatic growth among registered nurses have been researched widely, the understanding of PPCNs' psychological functioning is limited.

Utilizing researcher's insider-outsider positionality, this qualitative study aims to understand the lived experience of hospice-based paediatric palliative care nurses providing bereavement interventions to families through caring for deceased children within cooling facilities, and to understand the concept of 'meaning-making' conceptualised as an intrapsychic and interpersonal process within paediatric post-death care, and its implications on paediatric palliative care nurses' beliefs on one's life in relation to self and others. The research uses an Existential-Phenomenological-Ethnographic Approach.

Dr Lisa Orchard, Senior Lecturer in Psychology
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Assessing Breastfeeding Attitudes: A Scale Validation

To better promote and support breastfeeding we need to understand the public's opinion towards breastfeeding and explore the best ways to challenge any negative attitudes. For instance, we know that fears surrounding public breastfeeding can be a barrier. If we look for the best ways to reduce negative views surrounding public breastfeeding, we could eventually help people feel more supported when feeding in public. From a researcher perspective, we need a measurement to explore breastfeeding attitudes, so that we can look at whether such interventions are successful. This project aimed to create and validate a new scale for this specific purpose.

The project has taken a 3-phase process. In phase 1 we worked with healthcare professionals and families to draft up a list of relevant items to be included within the scale. By mapping these on to a theoretical framework we were able to create an initial draft of the scale. In phase 2 we asked people to complete the scale. This data was used for factor analysis, which allows us to amend the scale by exploring its reliability. In the third phase we hope to collect more data to measure scale validity.

This study was funded by The British Psychological Society (West Midlands branch). The paper is co-authored by Dr Wendy Nicholls, Mayzee Elliott and Dr Danny Hinton.

Dr Supreet Uppal, Research Student &
Dr Niall Galbraith, Reader in Health Psychology
School of Psychology, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Perceptions of mental wellbeing among Sikhs in the UK: a national survey

This is the first large survey exploring UK Sikhs' perceptions of family-based and community-based mental health shame. An online survey was distributed to Sikhs across the UK and produced a sample of 1001 respondents (525 aged 18-25). The survey included the 'Attitudes Towards Mental Health Problems' questionnaire (ATMHP) which measures beliefs about 7 types of mental health (MH) shame. Our Sikh respondents scored higher on most types of MH shame compared to previous ATMHP data from the general population or the student population. Our sample scored higher on perceptions of negative community attitudes to MH, compared to a previous ATMHP survey on UK Asian respondents.

Furthermore, Internal shame was more likely to be found in single, younger people and in those who had had previous MH problems. Those who perceive higher external shame from family if they themselves were to have mental health problems, were more likely to have had previous MH problems themselves. Perceptions of general negative MH attitudes in the community were more likely in those who say they could help someone else with MH problems, in those who have had previous MH problems themselves and in those who say they sought help for MH problems in the past. Perceptions that having mental health problems would bring shame from the community were more likely in those in their 20s/30s.

This suggests that shame is felt particularly by those who have lived through personal experience of MH problems. Future studies should seek to elucidate the causal process further, for example, whether shame projected from community/family leads to personal internalisation of these beliefs.

The paper is co-authored by Dr Supreet Uppal, Dr Opinderjit Takhar, Dr Ranjit Khutan, an Dr Niall Galbraith.

Dr Melanie Best, Chair of Disabled Staff Network & Senior Lecturer in Sport
School of Sport, Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

Getting DEAP with Disability

The presentation will initially offer the wider context pertaining to disability inclusion within society and HEIs specifically, to illustrate the under-representation of disabled individuals within the sector. The lens will then turn to the University of Wolverhampton and explore the inclusion of disabled staff in order to rationalise the conceptualisation of DEAP, the University's Disability Equality Action Plan. Reflecting on research undertaken into the lived experience of female, disabled staff at the University, some of the key findings and how these map to actions within DEAP, will be presented. E.g. reluctance to disclose, discrimination, the 'glass partitions and ceilings', etc.

The successes achieved this year, arising from the operationalisation of DEAP (e.g. events, campaigns, podcasts, reasonable adjustments passport) will be shared, alongside the next priorities for change. Finally the presentation will pan out again to the wider sector and advise of the appetite for and attempts to create a sector-wide National Framework for disabled staff and what this might look like. It will finish with food for thought on how the university might be involved in this work, and the researcher's role within this.

Jenny Koehring, Research Student
Faculty of Education, Health & Wellbeing

How do you sign 'intelligence'? Deafness, sign language, and their impact on psychometric testing

Psychometric ability testing (commonly known as 'intelligence tests') are used in over 50% of all job recruitment processes in the UK, even more so after the pandemic. Tests are standardised and normed for standard test takers, and norms are often based on undergraduate level University students. The majority of those students represent majority groups within the UK population: white, male/female, able-bodied, of a certain age range, social status and attainment.

We know from research that many who do not fit those parameters can be disadvantaged in job selection and recruitment. But very little research has been undertaken so far into Deaf test takers who use sign language as their first or preferred communication method. This presentation will highlight the common issues faced by Deaf people when accessing the world through written language, and how those barriers may be exacerbated in a standardised test situation. Results from a first, archival study of existing research will be presented, and an outlook given of the aims of further testing and practical application of the findings, which may provide a first step to more equal opportunities for Deaf test takers.

Professor Laura Ugolini, Professor of History
School of Social Science and Humanities, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

Who Cares? Men, mental illness and middle-class families in England, c. 1900-1918

Focusing on English middle-class families in the early twentieth century, this presentation explores the extent and nature of the part played by men in the care of mentally ill family members. Although recent historians have stressed the active role played by men in nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century families, there remains a consensus that the bulk of caring responsibilities – including for mentally ill relatives – fell on female shoulders.

This presentation does not seek to challenge this picture. Rather, it aims to shift the focus to men, and question whether they too had caring roles, and whether there existed a distinctively 'masculine' care within the middle-class family.

To gain insights into often hidden family relationships, the research uses varied sources such as appeals against conscription during the First World War, oral histories, autobiographies and press reports of intra-family violence. It assesses evidence of male involvement in the provision of care for mentally unwell relatives, either male or female, older or younger, paying especial attention to family members being cared for at home, outside mental institutions.

The presentation considers different forms of care: not only practical, but also emotional and / or intimate and physical, and assesses the extent and ways in which such care was included in the repertoire of middle-class men's domestic responsibilities and male gender identities.

J Michael Phillips, Research Student
School of Social Science and Humanities, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

War in Ukraine: the legacy of the Prussian artillery revolution of 1860-1875.

The War in Ukraine is an artillery-dominated war. Until 1860, artillery was just one arm on the battlefield. The Prussian-led revolution in artillery strategy, tactics, technology and impact on morale pushed artillery into becoming a battle-winner and it has been there ever since.

On the day of the Battle of Sedan 1870 the German artillery shaped the battlefield, fired over 25,000 shells, and brought about the defeat and surrender of Emperor Napoleon III and a complete French army. In a single decade Prussia fought three wars (1864, 1866 and 1870-71), at the end of which she had emerged from a second-rate power to the leader of a new unified Germany. The birth of the German Empire was declared at noon on 18 January 1871: significantly, the start of the ceremony was signalled by a shot from a single Krupp cannon.

Michael Phillips's research on the transformation of the Prussian artillery investigates how in just fifteen years Prussia revolutionized artillery to change battlefields for ever, the result of which we see every day in the War in Ukraine.

Sheila Passey, Research Student
School of Social Science and Humanities, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

Using Historical Fiction as a Means to Protect Women's Herstories

Society appears to be moving towards boycotting public figures, literature and language that are incompatible with current beliefs or cause offence to the status quo. Along with the constantly changing dynamics of gender identity, the apparent need to attribute personal pronouns and gender categorisations, not only to the living but also the dead; for example, the suggested remaking of Joan of Arc as a non-binary character and the recent attempts to rewrite the works of Roald Dahl and Ian Fleming, all causing further confusion and outrage.

At the risk of being lost forever, is there now a more urgent need to memorialise the many forgotten or frequently ignored herstories of influential women and their contributions to society? Can historical fiction support these herstories in a believable format and reposition them, so they are protected for future generations within this new culture?

Levstik and Burton (2001) describes historical fiction as: 'Blatantly inaccurate, cursed with tunnel vision and mired in romanticism...'.

I argue that much of history is informed by fiction, or is part fictionalised, especially pre-modern histories. Unless there is physical evidence of an event or persons, we make sense of our histories through narrative, myth and drama in an attempt to complete the missing details. Historical Fiction, therefore, is an essential tool for uncovering, exploring, sustaining and protecting our history.

Annette Linda Hutton, Research Student
School of Social Science and Humanities, Faculty of Arts, Business & Social Sciences

Examining Absence in First World War Commemoration

The Borough of Barnsley, in South Yorkshire, consists of a large number of small towns and villages surrounding the main urban area. Each local community erected or planned one or more war memorials after the First World War, yet out of almost four thousand men and women included in the Barnsley First World War Roll of Honour (published in 2018) 581 men and women born in the Borough were absent from commemoration on war memorials erected between 1915 and 1939.

Many of these names have been added to war memorials in recent years. Is it possible to discover why these men were initially omitted from commemoration in the communities in which they were born? How has adding their names to the local memorials added to the value of these memorials to the communities and improved our understanding of the way in which commemoration was planned 100 years ago?

By compiling biographies of all 581 men and women in the sample and comparing them for similarities and differences (the prosopographical method) it is hoped that a number of possible answers and suggestions can be presented.

This presentation will examine a small number of the themes which have emerged from this research so far.

Keynote Speaker

Tuesday 13 June 2023, 3:30 - 4:10pm
MC001, Lecture Theatre, Millennium City Building

Professor Sebastian Groes,
Professor in English Literature
School of Social Science and Humanities

"Or Do I Treat You Like a Vacuum Cleaner?" How Digital Inequality Will Shape Our Futures (If We Let It) [Cancelled]

Nobel prize-winning Kazuo Ishiguro's dystopian novel Klara and the Sun (2021) tells the story of an Artificial Intelligence-powered "artificial friend" that serves as a companion to a girl. In this near-future world, children of the privileged political elite are "lifted": they undergo expensive cognitive enhancement enabling them to secure the best socio-economic opportunities in life. In exchange they live in isolation, relying on their robot "friends" to assuage their loneliness. Not unlike these support bots, the poor, unlifted masses are left behind as servants to the powerful few.

Ishiguro's novel predicts that our continuously growing reliance on digital technology will lead to a growing social inequality. In this talk I will identify a number of trends that suggest how, on almost every level in society, digital technology is causing new divides and exacerbating older ones. The cause is relatively simple. Firstly, from farmers in developing countries to lower-income students in neglected, postindustrial areas, there continues to exist an unequal distribution of wealth and access to resources that hinders historically disadvantaged groups. Secondly, digital technologies contain biases that reinforce unfair organisation of wealth, social and cultural capital and access to resources and knowledge.

To demonstrate that the solutions to these problems are not straightforward, I will present new computational research into biases against (Black County) dialect and accent. I will also remark upon our naïve approach to ostensibly labour-saving technologies such as ChatGPT whilst showing that our treatment of animals does not bode well for the possibility of a healthy relationship with sentient robots.

Despite these ominous perspectives on our future, I will end this talk with suggestions for ways of countering digital inequality through creative action. I will call for a new attitude of modesty that relinquishes us from the desire to dominate the world and others whilst embracing a humbler approach that is genuinely open to different voices, realities, histories, cultures and ideas. This might prompt a reimagination of our relationship with technology, in which art and literature have a major role to play, and spark a more reparative relationship with our planet. Ishiguro's dystopian future will only happen if we let it.

RESEARCHERS'
WEEK EVENTS 2023

📅 **Wednesday 14 June to Friday 16 June 2023**

Researchers' Week aims to provide researchers with the opportunity to develop their research skills and knowledge development, as well as their networks with other researchers and their community of practice.

Day 3: Wednesday 14 June 2023

10 am to 12pm (Online) **Book here**	**Methodology Debate. 'How my discipline would research the impact of climate change'.** In this session we broach the idea of researching climate change from different disciplinary perspectives. To discuss their methodological approaches to researching climate changes we are joined by: • Dr Louise Fenton – Art • Dr Robert Geal – Social Sciences • Dr Claire Jones – Psychology • Professor Iza Radecka – Sciences • Dr Eun Sun Godwin - Business • Dr Stephen Greenfield – English • Dr Komali Yenneti – Built Environment.
12 pm to 1pm	**Networking over coffee** (Costa Coffee Bar, MC Building)
1 pm to 2 pm	**Lunch** (Free time)
2 pm to 3:30 pm (Online) **Book here**	**Developing a wellbeing plan with Clare Dickens, MBE** In this practical session Clare Dickens will work with participants to develop their personal wellbeing plan, including the things we can each do to self-care, enhance low mood, and what to do or who to contact in times of need.
3:30 pm to 4 pm (Online)	**Meditation** This session will offer a guided meditation.

Day 3: Thursday 15 June 2023

10 am to 1 pm (MC001) Book here	**WLV Talks – This is my story.** WLV Talks takes its lead from Ted Talks and offers short, inspirational talks around the theme 'this is my story'. We are joined by: • Deborah Littley – Postgraduate Research in Education • Mark Dobson – Postgraduate Research in Education • Loreal Stokes – That's Me Project Leader • Adam Vasco – Director of Diversity & Inclusion in Professional Practice (Faculty of Education, Health & Well-being) • Dr Roya Rahimi - Reader in Marketing and Leisure Management In addition, we are joined by Dr R. M. Francis who will be sharing his poetry.
1 pm to 2 pm	**Lunch** - Meet us at the Art Gallery Coffee Bar for lunch.
2 pm to 4 pm	**Viewing the gallery** Join us for an afternoon exploring Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Day 5: Friday 16 June 2023

10 am to 11 am (Online)	**Scoping the right Journal and writing an article.** In this session we will look at scoping the right journal for your work and what you need to ensure you know about writing a journal article that will be accepted for publication.
11 am to 12 pm (Online)	**Ask the Editors Panel** Understanding journal editing process helps you in navigating the process of writing for peer review. In this session we are joined by three journal editors who will share their advice and the common mistakes that you should avoid. This is a Q&A opportunity so please have your questions ready to ask the Editors.
12 pm to 1 pm (Online)	**Preparing a book proposal.** In this session we will address researching and writing a book proposal. This session will include what to look for when researching a potential publication and publisher, and best practices when writing a book proposal.
1 pm to 2 pm	**Lunch** (Free time)
2 pm to 3:30 pm (Online) Book here	**The Annual Doctoral College Gala** We will close Researchers' Week with our annual shout outs. Let us know what you are proud of, what you have done, what you want to say thank you for, and we will give you a shout out.

Find out more about our research at: **wlv.ac.uk/research**