Welcome everyone!

As Head of Department of Psychology I am delighted to have this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning students. I hope you had a great summer. With the challenges of the coming year in mind, I am sure we have all been inspired by the spirit and successes of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Your own goals and challenges will be to the fore at this time and we are committed to helping you achieve your full potential.

As a department, we strive to provide a friendly and supportive learning environment. If you are joining us this year, it will take a little time for us to get to know you as individuals, and for you to get to know us. Meanwhile, be assured that our experienced staff are familiar with the support required by students who may be away from home for the first time and unfamiliar with University life. Personal and academic support is available both within the Department and in the wider University.

We are confident that your experience with us will be enjoyable and productive. I very much look forward to meeting you and wish you every success in the coming academic year.

Finally, I would like to thank Julie Castronovo for all her hard work on this first edition of our newsletter.

Prof Paul Wilson
Head of Department

Support for Students
PASS scheme

The new PASS scheme is up and running this coming semester. PASS stands for Peer-Assisted Study Sessions. It is a Study Advise Service that our Department is offering to 1st year students. Dr Emily Mather is the academic coordinator for the PASS scheme. 2nd and 3rd year student volunteers (PASS leaders) will be working in small teams to help groups of 1st year students in weekly timetabled sessions.

The PASS leaders won’t be re-teaching material. They are there to help 1st year students work together to develop study skills, which will be very useful throughout your degree. We hope all our students will enjoy and benefit from this new scheme.

Final Year Employability Programme

Final year students are invited to attend a series of Careers Talks and “Preparing for Work” workshops. This fantastic programme will include Careers Talks by a range of professionals working in various fields such as Educational Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Mental Health Nursing and Primary and Secondary School Teaching. The programme will also include workshops to provide support with CVs, application forms, interviews and presentations.

Make sure to make the most of this great service!
Welcome to new staff

We are delighted to let you know that over the last few months, 7 new members of staff have joined the Department of Psychology. These new members of staff come from different backgrounds and are experts in different fields in psychology. We would like to take the opportunity to introduce them to you.

Background
Dr Emily Mather grew up in the village of Cheddar in Somerset – also home of the world’s famous cheese!

Her academic career started with A-level psychology. She took her undergraduate psychology degree at Warwick University, and her PhD at Reading. Emily worked as a researcher at Oxford University for a few years, and arrived at Hull as a lecturer in January 2012.

Teaching
During Semester 1, Emily will be lecturing on the “Theory & Explorations 1” module. She will be teaching her specialist area: developmental psychology. During Semester 2, she will be the instructor for the “Tutorial-Based Practical 1” (a component of the DEAR 2 course) which is designed to guide students through the process of designing, running and analysing a small psychology experiment. Emily is also the academic coordinator for the PASS scheme running during Semester 1.

Behind the Scene
Emily is a keen runner, who tries to go out running in the evenings no matter what the weather is like! She defines herself as not being a competitive runner, but she once moved up from sunny Brighton to Hull, to join the Department of psychology as a lecturer.

Background
Dr Henning Holle is from Germany, where he took his undergraduate & postgraduate degrees. This February, he moved up from sunny Brighton to Hull, to join the Department of psychology as a lecturer.

Teaching
If you are in Year 1, 2 or doing the MRes course, you will have the “dubious honour” (dixit) of getting to know Henning in the coming semester. Henning will teach Design and Statistics, as well as Biological Psychology.

Behind The Scene
When he is not teaching, Henning is either doing research (on gestures, touch and itch) or dreaming of Germany finally winning the World Cup (again!).

Background
Professor Richard Hammersley was born in London and grew up in Edinburgh. Richard did his PhD at the University of Cambridge. He joined the Department in 2012, after having worked at many universities (Glasgow Caledonian, Essex, Swansea, …). Richard is a health and social psychologist, doing research on alcohol, food, drugs and crime.

Teaching
Richard is contributing to the final year module “Psychology & Health”. He is module leader in Design and Statistics (postgraduate).

Background
Professor John Groeger was born in Cork, Ireland, which was where he did his first degree. After years (and years!) in the UK (Cambridge, Leeds, Surrey), John went back to his hometown to redevelop the Department in which he trained. For family reasons, John decided to come
back to the UK and he was delighted to have the opportunity to join such an ambitious research oriented group of psychologists in our Department.

**Teaching**

John will teach a final year option on “Psychology of Sleep”, based on his research interests. He will also be coordinating and teaching on Pioneers of Modern Psychology, as well as helping out with the employability workshops. As a leader of the Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences Research Group, John would be delighted to chat to students about related postgraduate and career opportunities.

**Behind The Scene**

John is a very passionate supporter of Munster rugby and missing the home games is his only regret about returning to the UK. The trade off, is that his other loves, Callum (12), Alex (7) and Rosie (?) are happy to see him skulk off in the early hours to away games!

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**Background**

Dr Julie Castronovo is from Belgium (yes the tiny country everybody goes past), where she took her undergraduate & postgraduate degrees. She moved to England 7 years ago to work as a researcher in numerical cognition at the Universities of Birmingham and Leeds. Julie joined the Department in January 2012.

**Teaching**

Julie is lecturing on Learning & Working in the first semester. She will also contribute to the Learning & Cognition module (year 2). Julie is the Student Liaison Officer, so feel free to get in touch if you think she can help (j.castronovo@hull.ac.uk).

**Behind the Scene**

Julie enjoys reading, theatre, travel, fencing and socializing.

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**WHAT’S UP?**

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**SPORTY DEPARTMENT!**

Staff and students sometimes come together for a game of football. Nothing too competitive, just good fun!

If you are interested in playing sometime or in being part of a student versus staff game, please get in touch with one of the student representatives (leaving your name and email address).

The representatives will inform staff of those students who would like to play and depending on numbers we can organize a suitable event.
A new “Cognitive Development and Education Lab” has recently been established in the department. The CDEL research interests include both basic experimental research and more applied research on a wide range of children, from infants to adolescents. This new group of research entails different areas of expertise: early word learning and reasoning, reading development and dyslexia, memory processes, working memory, mental toughness, motivation, … For more details, visit the research group webpage: www.hull.ac.uk/cdel

Hull Psychology In the Media

Professor Giuliana Mazzoni’s work on memory has recently been presented in a documentary for Channel 4, called The Boy Who Can’t Forget (broadcasted on Tue 25 Sept 2012 9pm). This documentary is about a twenty-year-old British student, Aurelien, who presents an incredible ability to remember and recall a vast amount of his life. This particular ability is called superior autobiographical memory. In the documentary, you can see Aurelien being examined by Giuliana, our memory expert, with the use of experimental paradigm set up by our computing officer, Darren. If you haven’t had the chance to watch this documentary, you can catch up here: http://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-boy-who-cant-forget/4od#3414113

Enjoy! 😉

Aurelien’s superior autobiographical memory has also been presented and discussed with Giuliana in a central article in the last Sunday edition of the Sunday Times.
Your Newsletter!

The Hull Psychology Newsletter is your Newsletter. This Newsletter is for students and staff. I welcome contributions from both staff and students for future issues. If you would like to write an article, share some good news, funny jokes or drawings about psychology, please get in touch with me, Julie Castronovo (j.castronovo@hull.ac.uk).

Congratulations!

Professor Rhona Johnston has been awarded an MBE for her research on the effectiveness of synthetic phonics as a method for teaching children to read. This approach teaches children, how to sound and blend letters in unfamiliar words in order to read them. This is now the recommended method for all primary schools in England. Rhona has been invited to present her research in Australia & France! Congratulations Rhona!

For the faculty 80th anniversary scholarship, 25 posters (2 for Psychology) were showcased. Congratulations to Matthew Coleshall, Giuliana’s PhD student, who received one of the four runner-up prizes!

The Student Led Teaching Awards identify good practice and recognise members of University staff for excellent quality teaching and student support. Congratulations to Peter Clough who was nominated for Best Supervisor Award, as well as to the Year 2 Social and Developmental Psychology team, Anna Sandfield, Helen St Clair-Thompson, Sarah McGeown and Jason Tiples, for winning the Best Module award! It’s great to see hard work being appreciated by the students! Thank you for your votes!

This last spring, there were two little additions to the department! Congratulations to Rachel Anderson & Steve Dewhurst for the birth of their daughter Amelie! Congratulations to Jo Beckett for the birth of her little son Finnan Thomas!

Recent Publications


