

ISSUE E10

# GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community



## Reconnecting

Research students networking again



# NEWS

## NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS ARE BACK IN THE CALENDAR!

### GUIDED TOUR AT THE BOTANIC GARDEN

After some difficult years due to the pandemic, we had our first social event on the 24 May 2022. A guided tour of the Oxford Botanic garden given by Dr Andrew Lack, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Biology at Oxford Brookes. Dr Lack enthusiasm and extensive knowledge captured the attention of this group of students and staff (around 30 people).



We finished the tour at about 2pm with a packed picnic lunch in the gardens. Some feedback from those attending:

'Being able to see Brookes members face to face was amazing. I missed those kinds of interactions. Moreover the tour was really interesting! Great job from our tour guide who managed to entertain so many people at once.'

'Thank you very much for coordinating the most enjoyable garden visit. Andrew Lack was a really excellent guide.'



### THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

This competition born at Queensland University is now running in many Universities all over the world. The basis of the competition is to be able to present your research to a non-specialist audience, in three minutes, with no props of any kind and with just one slide. We had 14 postgraduate students presenting their research. The competitors recorded their presentations and a panel of judges selected the winner and runner up. There was also the chance for the students to vote for their favourite presentation in the 'People's choice award'. The final event was held on a glorious Spring day at the Headington Hill Hall on the 21 June. The quality of all the presentations was excellent and the judging was very tight. The first prize was awarded to Sanjana Karnik (HSS), her presentation was sent to the national 3M competition held at the end of July. Two students were shoulder to shoulder, the judges made a final decision and the runner-up prize was awarded to Luna Dou (OBBS) while Amber Ridgway (HLS) received a high commendation. The people's choice award (based on student's votes) was given to Mayuri Agrawal (OBBS). After the prize giving and certificates, there was a networking lunch in the gardens. The feedback received during and after this event was very encouraging so we will run it again in 2023.



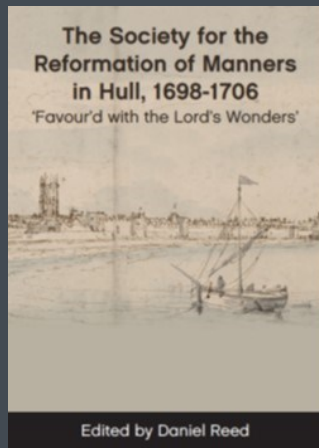
## OXFORD MYSTERY TRAIL

The last social event this academic year was joined by a group of students from several faculties and staff members on Tuesday 26 July 2022. We gathered to solve a detective mystery with clues spread out around a 2.5 mile loop in Oxford City. The teams solved the mystery in about two hours. The weather was perfect and the company great. We finished at All Bar One for a good chat and a drink. Do join us for the next walking trail in October. For more details see the upcoming events section or go to [graduate college events](#)



## ALUMNUS FIRST BOOK

Dr Daniel Reed, from the History Department, will have his first book published by the University of Wales Press later this year. The 1689 Act of Toleration legalised Christian worship outside the Church of England and unleashed a wave of religious fervour. In Hull, a group of dissenting mariners, merchants, and tradesmen formed a Society for the Reformation of Manners to turn back the swelling tides of sin they perceived in their community. To this end, they prosecuted their neighbours and sponsored sermons on spiritual reformation. Their successes and failures shed new light on the degree to which High Church Tories were willing to tolerate the Toleration. This volume presents the Society's records in full for the first time, with an introduction analysing their origins, methods, and ultimate decline.



Christian worship outside the Church of England and unleashed a wave of religious fervour. In Hull, a group of dissenting mariners, merchants, and tradesmen formed a Society for the Reformation of

## ALUMNA'S RESEARCH MAKES HEADLINES

Thais Morcatty, alumna from the School of Social Sciences has been making headlines with her research on wild cats poaching and conservation. One of her latest articles 'Illegal trade in wild cats and its link to Chinese-led development in Central and South America' was awarded second place as the highest Altimetric Score in the Conservation Biology Awards for 2021. Her research has been published on some of the best scientific journals, *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* (2021), *Environmental Research* (2021), *Biological Conservation* and recently in *Science* (August 2022). The latter, a short article, explaining how a parent company of Facebook and WhatsApp in Brazil was penalized for failing to remove thousands of online posts that had been flagged for selling illegal wildlife. This article highlighted the importance of enforcing legal reforms with regards to cybercrime and putting public pressure on non-compliant companies to invest in combating wildlife crime.

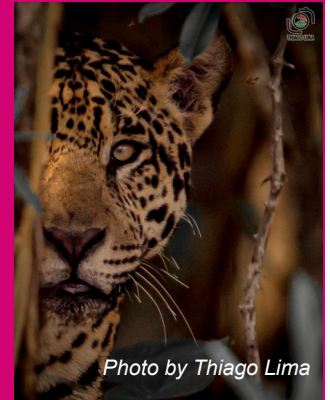


Photo by Thiago Lima

## A GUIDE TO THE ACADEMIC DRESS OF OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY.

Dr John Harding, alumnus from the Faculty of Social Sciences, recently published (2022) a booklet on Oxford Brookes University Academic Dress. The aim was to help anyone to understand the academic dress of the University as part of the British tradition of appropriate clothes for special occasions. This book outlines the hats, hoods and gowns worn by those awarded bachelors, masters and doctors degrees. Illustrated throughout, with some of the author's own sketches, it is a guide to the robes worn by graduates of the University.



Why wait until you leave? Join our LinkedIn group [Oxford Brookes Research Alumni Community](#) for all research students, past and present, to network and stay in touch.

## BAD PRESS ON SPIDERS?

PhD student Leah Fitzpatrick won this year's Royal Entomological Society International Writing



Competition for her piece defending spiders against the bad press they receive. 'Steatoda vs British Press Association' is an amusing article, written by Leah, a former arachnophobe, who thought the competition was "an excellent opportunity to stick up for spiders. "I'm delighted to have won and hope folks reading it will appreciate spiders a touch more! I know I'm not the first researcher who has been left flabbergasted by some of the newspaper stories published on their study species! I had a fantastic time writing up this piece for the Student Prize, it helped get out a lot of frustration I've had over the years when trying to have a nuanced conversation about *Steatoda nobilis*. Fortunately, I've seen through public outreach that people can become much less frightened of invertebrates and really do enjoy learning about these fascinating animals – it truly does give me the motivation to keep cracking on with my work."

## THE SCIENCE BAZAAR IS BACK!



Headington Campus will once again be filled with the sounds of science as the Brookes Science Bazaar returns to an in-person event on 29 October. This year, the Science Bazaar will be opening early for an autism-friendly 'quiet hour' from 9.30-10.30am, to welcome children and their grown-ups who prefer a quieter and calmer experience.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Latest student's publications

**2022. Melanie F. J. Diggle**, Sue Schutz and Dan Butcher. Bereaved Caregivers' Experiences of End of Life Care for People With Advanced Heart Failure: A Narrative Synthesis. *OMEGA—Journal of Death and Dying*. Vol. 0 (0) 1-28.

**2022. Thais Q. Morcatty**, Gretchen Peters, K.A.I. Nekaris, Pedro Cardoso, Caroline S. Fukushima, Hani R. El Bizri, Vincent Nijman. Tech companies liable for illegal wildlife trade. *Science*, Vol 377, Issue 6607.

2022. Franciany Braga-Pereira, **Thais Q. Morcatty** et al. Congruence of local ecological knowledge (LEK)-based methods and line-transect surveys in estimating wildlife abundance in tropical forests. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 13:743-756.

2021. **Thais Q. Morcatty**, Kim Feddema, K.A.I. Fekaris, Vincent Nijman. Online trade in wildlife and the lack of response to COVID-19. *Environmental Research* 193.

2021. .... **Thais Q. Morcatty** et al. Scientists' warning to humanity on illegal or unsustainable wildlife trade. *Biological Conservation* 263.

Let us know about your publications at [asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk)

## SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Leah Fitzpatrick will be talking at the IF Oxford Science and Ideas Festival in October. Elena Emili and Jo Cossington from the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences will together with Leah Fitzpatrick be leading activities in the Science Bazaar Beyond festival. Leah will be running mammal madness and will be using animal skulls to get visitors to think how mammals have evolved and are evolutionarily related. Elena is running Super Worms to help visitors understanding how "super" worms are with a variety of fun activities as well as demonstrating how they are used within research. Jo Cossington will be sharing her PhD project with visitors and encouraging them to get involved with her study into the Freestyle Libre continuous glucose monitoring system.

## The Yalla Project Nablus (PS):

### A hands-on socio– spatial regeneration hub

Abdalrahman Kittana Brookes alumnus tells us about the project he has been working for the past three years. The Yalla Project (TYP) is an applied research hub on socio-spatial issues in Nablus, Palestine. This project was established in 2019 by Alessandra Gola, Abdalrahman Kittana (Brookes alumni) and Basel Kittana. The main objective of The Yalla Project is to improve urban quality life intended as built environment, social life, economic and environmental sustainability. Our working methodology is based on the principles of learning by doing, action research and acupuncture intervention, systematically hybridizing interdisciplinary academic research with the application of principles on the ground through social enterprise and community actions.



This project materializes its agenda through two main threads: the first, Al-Marsam, a research and design studio that provides the theoretical background, development of ideas, and research activities in the field; the second is Yalla Mishwar, a social enterprise operating in the field of cultural tourism. This section holds a double function, as it provides financial sustainability and independency to the project, while working as a tool for the implementation of research-by-doing.

The main activities of The Yalla Project include urban regeneration, cultural tourism as a lever for sustainable development, edutainment, and community building. TYP works as a collaborative platform that seeks to network with other sectors working on the ground with similar aims and ethics throughout its activities. The main actions accomplished so far include the complete renovation of three buildings to host an Antique social café and Turquoise guesthouse and the participation in restoring six other buildings in the old town of Nablus.



In terms of local activation through tourism, through Yalla Mishwar, The Yalla Project has been able to offer accommodation, catering services and thematic tours to local and foreign visitors, mobilizing local families and small enterprises

for this activity .

In addition to that, an improvement in the quality of life was achieved through the implementation of an organic rooftop farm, as a pilot project on micro spatial activation for sustainability and food security. Additionally numerous social and cultural activities were organised such as free lectures, concerts, art exhibitions etc..

In terms of its academic outputs, The Yalla Project has participated in seven international seminars and has led two international workshops.

## RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



**Katie Taylor**  
School of Arts

Shortly after the war in Bosnia, Interpol stated that it is 'the right of human beings not to lose their identity after death'. This statement led me to question the right to identity of those individuals who cannot be scientifically 'identified'.

It is often assumed that science can step in to identify anyone, however DNA is only useful if there is something to cross reference a sample to, fingerprints are only useful if they are already recorded on a database and documents can identify someone but only if they have them with them at the time of death.

For my practice-based PhD I am considering unidentified deaths, looking at clothing, belongings, and location as ways to individualise. In life we choose how we present ourselves through our belongings and clothing. Clothes and shoes act as vessels or containers, reminding us of who they belonged to. At death it is often clothing that is the first step in the identification process for forensic teams.

Using art practice, I am producing an ongoing body of work

that explores the acknowledgement of unidentified dead. I have used gelatine bioplastic, a biodegradable material, that slowly breaks down within the environment (just as bodies do) becoming part of the surroundings. Directly referencing the fragility of the dead body within the environment. The material has a ghostly quality too, that physically embodies the idea of something that is missing, barely there.

With my research I raise awareness of the existence of individuals who have died unnoticed, people who are currently only acknowledged as a reference on a database. With no one to mourn or remember them, these individuals will fade from society's consciousness.



By referring to the belongings that unidentified individuals had with them at the point of their death, I directly connect to aspects of their individuality. This individuality within well-worn belongings is akin to identity in life as well as death. In death belongings have an increased poignancy every mark seems to have a story to tell.

To loved ones these are precious items kept safe to remember times spent together, but when items are discovered with unidentified human remains the individuality of items is perhaps all we have available to us to suggest something of these individual lives.

**With my research I raise awareness of the existence of individuals who have died unnoticed, people who are currently only acknowledged as a reference on a database.**



**Hussein Al-Odwan**  
**Oxford Brookes**  
**Business School**

The title of my thesis is ‘Evaluating loss and ambiguity aversion in a contextualised risk setting’.

I stumbled upon a book in my second year of my undergraduate degree at Coventry University called “Misbehaving”. The book was written by esteemed Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Richard Thaler. This book was the propeller of my love for behavioural economics, it was eloquently written and had the key basics down in terms of biases and other key economic terms.

Loss aversion refers to the inclination or preference for individuals to avoid losses rather than acquiring gains. Loss aversion is an important concept associated with prospect theory and is fittingly portrayed in the expression “losses loom larger than gains” (Kahneman and Tversky, 1979). Loss Aversion is when an individual is more in favour of avoiding losses rather than obtaining gains of equivalent value.

When making risky decisions, individuals tend to ask for a premium before taking on a risk, which implies that the individual is risk averse. Thaler (1999) epitomizes this statement with “losing \$100 hurts more than gaining \$100 yields pleasure”. This implies that there exists an asymmetric relationship between gains and losses where individuals are risk averse in the domain of perceived gains but risk seeking in the losses domain.

My research will contribute to a growing field of Economics, in the behavioural sense, building on existing fatherhood research and adding to the insightful and innovative work on loss aversion and the degree to which an individual is loss averse based on certain conditions; which was developed by economists such as Amos Tversky, Daniel Kahneman, and Richard Thaler.

In different ways, such economists have sought to present a more grounded knowledge of loss aversion with a critical investigation into the degree of loss aversion and how it affects an individual in risky and risk-less situations. The research was motivated by Cox and Sadiraj (2004) who found evidence that “small” stakes for gambles experience low levels of loss aversion compared to larger stakes.

My research seeks to study the rationale behind loss aversion and the degree of loss aversion a subject faces when being offered different options. Subsequently, according to the literature - loss aversion is inherently established in stakes involving large sums (Abdellaoui, M., Bleichrodt, H. and Paraschiv, C., 2007). On the other hand, loss aversion is not exhibited in stakes involving small sums by individuals in experiments conducted by Ert and Erev (2013).

I love research, the different ideas you might stumble upon while doing your work and scouring the various journals and getting lost in the literature is what makes me happy. There is much untapped knowledge that is just awaiting to be discovered by young doctoral students. I believe the road to the completion of a PhD is an arduous one and will require a large amount of effort and dedication, but in the end, it will all be worth it.

My future plans are to stay in academia after finishing my PhD and I might even opt for a post-doc position in the future. Moreover, I still see myself working for a company as a viable option; perhaps as an analyst or data scientist.

**I believe the road to the completion of a PhD is an arduous one and will require a large amount of effort and dedication, but in the end, it will all be worth it.**



**Nur Rasyiqah  
Abu Hassan**  
School of Built  
Environment

The title of my thesis is 'Contribution of Heritage on City's Liveability: In The Case of Kuala Lumpur'

Liveability has become an important concept because all the cities in the world are currently facing an urbanization crisis and pressure to provide best living condition to its people. But does heritage make a city liveable? Although the concept of liveability is complex and conveys various meanings, UNESCO asserts that a liveable environment is more likely to be present if there is a strong connection between communities and heritage. In this sense, heritage areas can positively influence the liveability of places. However, there has been limited research into the relationship between heritage conservation and the liveability of urban environments. This lack of a clear evidence base in relation to how heritage is treated as part of liveability in both development and conservation policy, has resulted in challenges in both formulating and implementing appropriate policies generally.

In this research, most of the Kuala Lumpur built heritage is in strategically prime locations, where there is a significant risk of redevelopment and destruction of important heritage assets.

The concept of liveability in Malaysia has been alluded to and articulated in several key policies relating to heritage conservation over the last few years. The trend of including heritage as an aspect of the government's aspirations for liveability has been increasing by utilizing abandoned and underused buildings of heritage value. Policy and other development instruments, such as conservation programmes, can be a catalyst for establishing sustainable communities in heritage areas, reinstating their original purpose as living neighbourhoods. In this context, the thesis aims to investigate the relationship between heritage value and liveability, and how this has come to be reflected in policy making and implementation strategies in the future, specifically in the Malaysian context. This research will also review the current heritage policy framework, and its contribution to the liveability of Kuala Lumpur city.

The importance of heritage has been recognised for several decades, and was first explicitly mentioned in the Malaysia Plan 1986, specifically in relation to its potential for strengthening tourism activities. Subsequently, there is evidence of a growing social awareness of heritage in Malaysia, with the introduction of the National heritage Act 2005. As applied in practice, however, the legislation has not prevented the demolition of buildings of significant heritage value and have not protected areas of significant heritage very effectively. The demolitions and lack of effectiveness also suggests a broader, if implicit, agenda in which built heritage has been given less value than new development. The effectiveness of conservation practice is questionable, although Kuala Lumpur is guided by its own heritage policy.

Many researchers stated that this situation is mainly caused by a conflict in attitudes and different perceptions among stakeholders of heritage value. In essence, this research has the potential to critically assess current policies, and identify what policy modifications and implementation strategies might be necessary to better align Kuala Lumpur's aspirations to be a more liveable city, with the potential for a wider range of its heritage to be retained as a key contributor to such liveability.

**Policy and other development instruments, such as conservation programmes, can be a catalyst for establishing sustainable communities in heritage areas, reinstating their original purpose as living neighbourhoods.**





**Lucy Speakman**  
**School of Nursing**

The title of my thesis is ‘An exploration of the experiences of community respiratory nurses supporting patients who are breathless’ I graduated from Nottingham University in 1994 with BNurs. I worked in Nottingham at the Queens Medical Centre for a couple of years before moving to work at the John Radcliffe in Oxford in acute medicine. Following a year abroad travelling I returned to the UK and worked as a community nurse in a city practice. From this job I moved to study full time at Oxford Brookes for the District Nursing Cert (BA). This enabled me to become a District Nursing sister in a rural practice where I worked for 2 years.

I then worked for a short period at Didcot Community Hospital. From there I moved to my current role in the Community Respiratory Nursing Team in Oxford. This is an expanding service supporting

people predominantly with COPD and asthma in the community. I have a caseload of patients that I support in their own homes. My special interest is in end of life care; holistically supporting patients and their families facing challenging symptoms like refractory breathlessness. We also support anyone requiring home oxygen and offer Pulmonary Rehabilitation to the county. Our service has recently extended to supporting patients with Long Covid in specialised community clinics.

Living with unrelenting breathlessness can cause individuals significant physical, emotional, social and economic negative impact to their lives. Often patients are supported by their life partners or family members who help manage complex medication and oxygen regimens. Increasingly difficult breathing can cause fear and anxiety for both patient and caregiver, calling upon the Community Respiratory Nurse Specialist (CRNS) to offer practical and emotional support and guidance, in their role of supporting people with respiratory disease.

However, supporting patients who have distressing and difficult to treat symptoms impacts the nurse’s caring for them too. Repeated exposure to the distress of others, is associated with increased stress and burnout on the nurse. Coping with the distress of others requires “emotional labour”: a recognised consequence of caring that can be experienced by the individual nurse. It is highly likely that this will be even more apparent in a post COVID-19 environment where nurses will witness grief and loss both personally and professionally. Engaging with the distress of others however can build trust and enable a closer relationship between the nurse and patient, to ensure the patient receives best supportive care. It is therefore an important, yet challenging component in patient care and might impact the care delivered by the nurse. To witness difficult breathing, something so life sustaining and fundamental to our survival as human beings, is to witness distress. When exposed to the distress of others, there is likely to be a personal emotional cost to the CRNS which may then influence the care they give their patients. It might, because of their own feelings, influence the care they give their patients.

This is an unexplored area of research in respiratory nursing. Therefore, the aim of this project will be to explore the nature of the support provided by CRNS to patients with difficult breathing. The connection between the experiences of CRNS supporting patients with difficult breathing, how they interpret these experiences and how they impact them personally will be explored, examining the consequence for their patient care. This will seek to advance understanding in the relevance of emotional labour and effective nursing care. This will be a qualitative study using video interviews with 15-20 CRNS seeking to explore their thoughts and feelings associated with supporting patients who have difficulty breathing. Interpretive phenomenological methodology will be used to reveal how CRNS make sense of their experiences to make known their lived experience of the clinical role, which may not be obviously apparent.

**Coping with the distress of others requires “emotional labour”:  
a recognised consequence of caring that can be experienced  
by the individual nurse.**



**Mashael Kamran**  
**School of Engineering**

The title of my thesis is 'Investigating Sustainable Pathways for the UK Transition to Electric Mobility'.

I completed my undergrad in Electronics and Electrical Engineering (BEng) from the University of Edinburgh and my Master's with Distinction in Electrical Power System from the Northumbria University, Newcastle. My interest in finding solutions to environmental challenges and climate change issues attracted me towards the research topic. Moreover, I cherished the opportunity to be a part of the Faraday Institution - Recycling and Reuse of EV Lithium-ion batteries (ReLib) Project, the research topic on addressing the environmental challenges of the future mobility and the funding provided by the Oxford Brookes University.

Lithium – ion batteries are seen as an emerging technology in the energy transitions, not just in enabling the electrification of transportation but also providing the needed flexibility in low carbon electricity grid. In 2019 about one quarter of the UK total

GHG emission were due to road transport; in particular, petrol and diesel passenger cars represented the most significant contributions to these emissions.

The government targets to ban all diesel and petrol new car sales by 2030, and potentially have all zero emission vehicles by 2050. Electric vehicle power delivered by renewable sources can contribute a significant degree of decarbonisation of the transportation sector. However, the increase in electric vehicles and lithium-ion battery technology poses a challenge in terms of availability of key battery materials (e.g. Cobalt and Lithium) and environmental implications linked to the extraction of raw materials. With the goal to reduce carbon footprint, there is also wide deployment of renewable energy resources and the need for energy storage technologies.

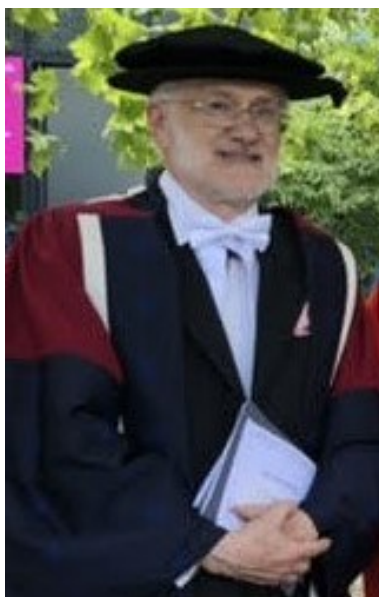
Once EV batteries are no longer suitable to cover the range required by an EV, they can still be used in stationary grid applications to support the uptake of renewables in the grid, where a less intensive need of storage is required, giving them a second life, and reducing the need for new batteries being manufactured for the sole purpose of grid storage. Recycling these batteries and reusing their materials can lessen the demand for raw materials, which can benefit both the mobility and the electricity sectors. Furthermore, it would also reduce the environmental impact and energy it takes to mine the raw materials for manufacturing new batteries. Another on-going transition is transport as a service, whose purpose is to provide a shared and flexible mobility which attempts to minimize the private use of light duty vehicles. All these strategies provide an opportunity to mitigate some of the concerns.

My PhD focuses on understanding the demand for key battery materials to meet the expected adoption of electric vehicles and address the environmental concerns on resource constraints and ecological consequences associated with the evolution of the light duty vehicle fleet. Understanding the future magnitude of raw materials and environmental trade-off can help in evolving strategies for better development of the mobility and electricity sector.

I really enjoy the learning aspect and understanding the topic to its core, I find it very satisfying to study the challenges and explore solutions with a futuristic approach. As a research student I got the opportunity to dive in the topics I am very passionate and curious about, I got to learn more and enhance my knowledge by taking in extra courses, that is something I really enjoyed. I do not have an exact career in mind, but I know I want to use my knowledge and skills to continue addressing environmental and resources challenges. I am passionate about fighting climate change and I hope to live in a world that is environmentally conscious.

**With the goal to reduce carbon footprint, there is also wide deployment of renewable energy resources and the need for energy storage technologies.**

# ALUMNI PROFILES



**John Harding**

**School of Social  
Sciences**

Mine was something of an unusual introduction to postgraduate research at Oxford Brookes, since it began fifty-one years after I had taken my first, B.A. degree. The usual events of adult life had followed: bread-winning, marriage, family and a mortgage. In 2016, I had enough freedom from other responsibilities to think about the possibility of returning to some more-intense study. Out of a range of interests that I had been following, I had arrived at a deepening curiosity about Eighteenth-Century Wales. After some time of occasional writing on the subject, I was advised to apply to the University to study for a research degree. My application was received with great kindness; and to my own bewilderment, I found myself in September 2016 registering, and receiving a Brookes student-card and number, feeling a grey-headed anomaly among the crowds of youthful newcomers.

After considering possible areas of novel research, I decided upon an important figure in Welsh history, but one surprisingly neglected by his fellow-countrymen: Griffith Jones (1683-1761). He was a clergyman of the Church of England, of humble origins, who became vicar of Llanddowror in West Wales. There was work to be done on Jones's place in the development of ideas and religion in Wales at the time. The path was made easier for me, in that early in my research, I learnt of a body of transcripts of Griffith Jones's sermons, in Welsh: in six large volumes, held in the National Library of Wales, and Cardiff Central Library, carefully written, with numbered pages and indexes – which

had never received theoretical analysis. My thesis was thus founded on this plentiful material, revealing Griffith Jones's theology, and his place in development of doctrinal thought and practice in Eighteenth-Century Wales and beyond.

There was a special thrill in working for a degree at Oxford Brookes. Coming back to academia in the mother city of English-speaking scholarship, after life in the outside world, gave a strong sense of becoming a member of the community of learning, and of the privilege of making my own small contribution. I found warm acceptance and encouragement within the University, and especially at the world-famous Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History (OCMCH) with its archive. I never felt isolated or neglected. The University keeps a careful watch over students, providing study-days to ease a task which some can find a lonely life, beset by periods when it can be difficult to see the way forward. There was always the gentle exhortation not to give up at obstacles.

For me, the thrill of embarking on creative study did not fade, even under the insistent need to keep going under exacting intellectual demands. At first, reaching a doctorate seemed like climbing to the top of a distant mountain; but the round of research, thought, writing, critique and revision made it an intense adventure of discovery. Oxford Brookes provided me with what must have been a near-perfect situation for such effort. Under the guidance of two very attentive Supervisors, Professor William Gibson and Dr Peter Forsaith. I quickly slid into a routine of creative study.

I found my course demanding; but so it had to be, in aiming at the standard of the M.Phil. and the hoped-for, higher goal of a Ph.D. It is important for the beginner to bear in mind that the high standard means that the research and its writing are bound to be difficult. But difficulty is not impossibility! My own approach, when halted by some problem, was not to wait for inspiration, but pursue another connected line, which usually would give stimulating fresh light on the whole line of reasoning.

For older students, the intellectual stimulation is a powerfully rejuvenating tonic. It was a joy to graduate in May with some of my grandchildren present; I can almost think of my beginning a third career, having been appointed a Visiting Research Fellow in the University, and amongst friends to whom I am deeply grateful.

**For older students, the intellectual stimulation is a powerfully rejuvenating tonic. It was a joy to graduate in May with some of my grandchildren present.**



**Thais Morcatty**

**School of Social Sciences**

As an international student, I did not have the opportunity to visit Oxford Brookes University before coming to study here. I had a PhD project in mind, and I contacted Professor Vincent Nijman, who was recommended to me as worldwide researcher on my topic, by a colleague from the renowned NGO TRAFFIC. After reading his work, I decided that he was indeed the best supervisor for my project idea. He liked my project idea and invited me to do the PhD with him here. Before coming to the UK, I have done a MSc in Ecology at the National Institute for Amazonian Research, in Brazil, and worked as a researcher and conservation practitioner in Brazilian institutions for sustainable development in the Amazon.

I was attracted by the Oxford Wildlife Trade Research Group. Wildlife trafficking is one of the main hindrances for the sustainable development in the tropics and I decided to research more on this area to help curbing wildlife trafficking in South America, since very little was known on this area. Wildlife trade is among the main threats to biodiversity conservation and may pose a risk to human health due to the spread of zoonotic diseases. To avoid social, economic and environmental consequences of illegal trade, it is crucial to understand the factors influencing the wildlife market and the effectiveness of policies already in place. In my PhD, I unveiled the biological and socioeconomic factors driving wildlife trade, the health risks imposed by the activity, and the effectiveness of certified captive-breeding as a strategy to curb the illegal market in Latin America through a multidisciplinary approach. I assessed socioeconomic correlates of the emerging international trade in wild cat species from Latin America using a dataset of >1,000 seized cats, showing that high levels of corruption and Chinese private investment and low income per capita were related to higher numbers of jaguar seizures. I assessed the effectiveness of primate captive-breeding programmes as an intervention to curb wildlife trafficking. Illegal sources held >70% of the primate market share. Legal primates were more expensive, and the production was not sufficiently high to fulfil the demand. I also assessed the scale of the illegal trade and ownership of venomous snakes in Brazil. Venomous snake taxa responsible for higher numbers of snakebites were those most often kept as pets. Then, I uncovered how online wildlife pet traders and consumers responded to campaigns associating the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of 20,000 posts on Facebook groups, only 0.44% mentioned COVID-19 and several stimulated the trade in wild species during lockdown. Despite the existence of international and national wildlife trade regulations, I concluded that illegal wildlife trade is still an issue that needs further addressing in Latin America. In my thesis, I identified knowledge gaps and candidate interventions to amend the current loopholes to reduce wildlife trafficking. My aspiration with this thesis was to provide useful information that can inform better strategies to tackle illegal wildlife trade in Latin America. The staff and students from the department of Social Sciences, in particular from the Oxford Wildlife Trade Research Group and Nocturnal Primate Research Group were extremely kind and supportive. They made me feel welcomed, helped me with university's procedures and included me in their activities. That allowed me to make the most of my experience here, learning from local and international researchers and building important network connections. After graduating I have worked as an Associate Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University and as a consultant at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). My future plans are continuing to teach in higher education while doing research on wildlife conservation of the tropics.





**Daniel Reed**

**History Department**

The starting point for my thesis project is the perceived success of the revisionist programme in ecclesiastical history in dissipating (what has been called) the longest shadow in modern historiography. The central figure of my study is Lancelot Blackburne (Archbishop of York, 1724-1743), who has not benefitted from this revisionist ‘turn’, and represents an unparalleled problem in accounts of the eighteenth-century Church.

Blackburne is often derided for his personal imperfections and supposed negligence of his episcopal duties – in spite of evidence to the contrary. As long as outposts of resistance to revisionism remain like Blackburne’s case, negative assumptions will linger on in contemporary studies of the Church, regardless of whether they are reframed by current trends.

My study utilises under-explored archival sources to reorient Blackburne’s case to its historical context, through an exploration of the inter-connected themes of patronage, performance, and reputation. Over the course of the thesis, I delineate Blackburne’s distribution of patronage, exploring how his appointments contributed to the task of ‘turning’ the Diocese of York toward the Whig ministry under Walpole.

I also investigate the reciprocal obligations of the patronage bargain, and demonstrate the correlation between spiritual services and temporal rewards. The study challenges the claims of neglect that underpin pessimistic accounts of Blackburne’s archiepiscopacy, positing that supposed marks of poor performance are mis-readings of the Archbishop’s changing approach to diocesan management occasioned by his declining health.

Finally, I investigate under-analysed afterlives of patronage relationships, and the long shadow cast by a patron over their clients’ subsequent careers. This includes exploration of the intertwining nature of contemporary, politically-motivated scandal and the mythologisation of an historical figure.

Juggling the responsibilities of part-time study was a constant challenge – especially when you’re self-funded. I feel fortunate that I was able to source various pots of external funding that helped to keep my project on track. My advice to anyone in the same position is to invest time into discovering what is available – and to just give it a go. Support is available in some unlikely places!

Since completing my PhD, I’ve been fortunate to stay on at Brookes in a full-time position with the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History as Public Engagement Manager and Research Fellow. I now work to promote historic links between the Centre and the Methodist Church through archives, artworks, publications, and research.

This role has allowed me continue with my own research, and I’m delighted that my first book – ‘The Society for the Reformation of Manners in Hull, 1698-1706’ will be published by the University of Wales Press in late 2022.

**One of the most enjoyable parts of being a research student was the camaraderie in the field. Going to conferences and seminars, first as an attendee – later as a speaker- and sharing ideas. It’s never too early in your programme to start getting out there and meeting other researchers.**

# STAY CONECTED

## Mystery Walking Trail Oxford

Join us on **26 October** for this self-guided walk around Oxford. Explore, discover and learn about the City and colleges.

It will take from 1-2 hours to complete at your own pace - do bring comfortable shoes.

Book your place on the [graduate college events page](#)

## Student Reps Training

Have you been a student representative for a while? Or are you a new student interested in helping your peers?

Come and join us for an informal meeting on **Wednesday 19 October, 3-4pm** in room **CLC 208**. Let us know by email [asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:asa-gcevents@brookes.ac.uk)



## Tour of the Oxford MINI Plant

Join us for a private guided tour on **23 November at 3pm**. The tour will last for around 100 min. We will see how the MINI has changed over the years and experience first hand their production, from the welding of steel parts into car bodies to the individual interior equipment in the assembly. How thousand of parts come together to produce up to 1,000 MINIs per day!

Join this exciting Tour by booking your place on our [graduate college events page](#).

**Hurry to book your place - this tour is limited to 15 people**

## The Graduate College

The Graduate College organise and support a variety of events for research students, including training and social get-togethers.

For further information on all our activities please visit: [The graduate college events](#)

## Graduate College Annual Research Student Exhibition

The exhibition is back!

**Wednesday 19 April 2023, 10am – 5.30pm** at The Forum, John Henry Brookes Building. More information on how to participate will appear later in the year on the [graduate college page](#)

## Three Minute Thesis Competition



**Tuesday 27 June 2023 at Headington Hill Hall, 12 to 2pm**

Present your thesis in three minutes using only a single static PowerPoint slide, no props, sound, moving images, poems or songs. There will be prizes for first place and runner up. The people's choice winner will receive a voucher.

The winner will be entered into the UK 3MT® online competition to be held in July/August. There will be more information on how to register later in the year on the [Graduate college events page](#)

## Research Degrees Team

You can contact us on:

[rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk)



Follow us on Twitter for all the latest research student news and events  
[@BrookesGC](#)

# Coming up

Research student training sessions to look out for this academic year:

## GRADUATE COLLEGE TRAINING PROGRAMME

### Semester 1 - 2022

- The Viva Examination
- Intellectual property training for researchers
- Research ethics process for PhD students
- Tackling the writing up stage of the research degree
- Time management: planning your research degree and keeping up momentum
- How to get the most out of conferences
- Keeping up to date with your research
- Managing your supervisor and building a good relationship with your supervisory team
- Endnote training - managing information overload
- A step by step guide to publishing your research findings
- Managing your research records and your data management plan

### Semester 2 - 2023

- Publishing your research data: with particular focus on Oxford Brookes' institutional repository RADAR
- Integrating public engagement into your research
- Evaluating your public engagement activities
- Commercialising an idea, start-ups & spin-outs
- Embedding impact in your research
- Copyright for research students: RADAR and submitting the electronic version of your thesis
- Strategies for successful networking
- Introduction to publishing journal articles
- Research integrity at Brookes - a brief guide to general principles

## Careers Training Programme

The new Careers training programme for researchers for semester 1 is now live for bookings: [www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events)

Full details of the first webinar - **Careers Options for Researchers** (6 October) - and **Careers Cuppa** (in-person, 13 October) - don't forget to sign up and find the full programme at: [www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events)

We are always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter and they are welcome from all sections of the University. If you would like to get involved please email:

[asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk)

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to all our research students on the successful outcome of their vivas and conferment of their degrees and awards for the period Sep21 – Aug22.

## **Oxford Brookes Business School**

### **Doctor of Philosophy**

#### **Ammar Alawadh**

“Evaluating Saudi Arabian Fathers as Key Socialisation Agents in Children’s Healthy Eating and the Implications for Healthy Food Marketing Policy Development”

#### **Usman Alkali**

“University-Industry-Government Interaction: Drivers for Innovation in Nigeria”

#### **Van Thi Nguyen**

“The Interaction between Personal and Company Environmental Values and Their Influence on Pro-Environmental Behaviours in Hospitality Sector Workplace: A Case Study of An International Hotel Company”

#### **Ksenia Penchukova**

“An Interpretive Exploration of Under-Representation of Women Executive Directors in UK FTSE-100 Companies”

#### **Sebastian Raymaekers**

“Effective Insiders in the Voluntary Sector: Developing a Framework and Process for Service Organisations Engaging Volunteers”

#### **Cristovão Bomfim Silva Dos Santos**

“Mechanisms of Trust in Indigenous Tourism: A Study of the Pataxo Jaqueira Community in Porto Seguro, Brazil”

#### **Waraporn Supmak**

“Enterprise Performance Management in High-Tech Engineering: Developing a Holistic Method”

#### **Somhatai Timsard**

“The Role of Social Media in Consumers’ Development of Skills and Competencies in Cosmetic Use in Thailand”

### **Doctor of Coaching and Mentoring**

#### **Alistair Bradley**

“An empirical exploration into changes coaches perceive associated with the experience of Flow in coaching conversations”

#### **Mary Joanne Feehily**

“Professional obligation or professional citizenship behaviour? Mentoring in the UK veterinary sector”

#### **Robert Michael Kemp**

“What is emotional labour for coaches?”

#### **Andrea Kilpatrick**

“What are the experiences of challenges to confidence during senior leadership and how does coaching support leaders with confidence at this transition point?”

#### **Nigel Stone**

“Coaches’ use of directive and non-directive conversational approaches and implications for entrepreneurs’ development”

### **PhD by Published Work**

#### **Timothy Andrew Page**

“A trade union perspective on industrial policy regimes in France, Germany, Denmark, China, Singapore and South Korea. What lessons for the United Kingdom?”

## **Faculty of Health and Life Sciences**

### **Doctor of Philosophy**

#### **Ayman Adnan Abu Seer**

“The Change in the Concentration Levels of Extracellular Vesicles and of Cytokines in the Circulatory Blood System in Response to Different Exercise Protocols”



**Sulaiman Ahmed**

“Defining the molecular composition and organisation of transition fibres in Trypanosoma brucei and their roles in flagellar assembly and length control”

**Bisa Andov**

“Characterisation of the Arabidopsis mid-SUN proteins at the plant NE”

**Anastasia Arvaniti**

“Follow your gut: Does AKR1D1 impact gastro-intestinal health?”

**Abigail Sacha Bailey**

“Genetic and morphometric variation of two focal species of snapper (Lutjanus bohar and Lutjanus gibbus) in the Chagos Archipelago”

**Helen Bosley**

“Understanding maternal attitudes to antibiotic use: a community-based case study”

**Emanuela Carollo**

“Investigations into the roles of Histamine Receptor H1 and extracellular vesicles in ovarian cancer cell behaviour”

**Clare Halliday**

“The role of the flagellum attachment zone in Leishmania Mexicana flagellar pocket architecture”

**Teresa Joyce**

“Executive Function in Children with and without Development Coordination Disorder”

**Maria Lorena Martinez Quiles**

“An Investigation of the Mechanisms of Groucho Mediated Transcriptional Repression”

**Kay McCallum**

“Death and dying in the emergency department: a phenomenological study of the experiences of family members and nursing staff”

**Neesha Oozageer Gunowa**

“A collective case study to critically evaluate the educational preparation of registered nurses in Higher Education institutions in relation to pressure ulcer assessment and identification, specifically focusing on skin tone diversity”

**Elise Hannah Padbury**

“Investigating the role of TRPC3 in the biogenesis of extracellular vesicles”

**Jackie Diane Parsonage**

“A mixed method investigation to develop a specialised occupational therapy theory based intervention manual for use with young people with emerging mental health issues”

**Laura Smithson**

“Understanding the composition and structure of the flagellar groove in bloodstream from Trypanosoma brucei”

**Nasim Soleymani Majd**

“The effect of high-polyphenol sumac on food intake in younger and older adults, using sensory and appetite

analysis”

**Sheera Sutherland**

“Development of an acceptable, safe and feasible physical activity intervention for haemodialysis patients”

**Lidiya Vasileva Talbot**

“Unravelling the genetic relationships between auditory processing and speech and language”

**Stefan Wojcik**

“Beyond membrane curvature; Clade 6 restrictions and their role within the plant endoplasmic reticulum”

**PhD by Published Work**

**Cynthia Anne Sothers**

“Taxonomy and Phylogenomics of Chrysobalanaceae”

**Master of Philosophy**

**Parmida Mohammadpour**

“Parents’ perspectives of home numeracy practices of primary school children”

**MA by Research**

**Kabir Bubna**

“Coaches’ self-perceptions on how they influence collective behaviour in team sports”

**Thomas David Pill**

“It’s not banter, it’s called sexual harassment!” Symbolic violence and gender relations in UK horseracing”

**Harry Eliot Spinks**

“‘You Can Sit With Us’: Habitus, Capital and Socio-economic Background in the Established Status of University Sport”

**Nicholas Ward**

“Is the pedagogic practice of elite rowing coaches unknowingly underpinned by a Constraints-Led Approach?”

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**Ben Burbank**

“‘Wow, what’s that Dad?’ Fresh and Dynamic Perspectives of Young Children’s Museum Experiences”

**Sophie Edwards**

“Assessing primate skull shape variation in relation to habitat: a 3D geometric morphometric approach”

**Jose Luis Guerrero Quinones**

Euthanasia and the duty to die: a moral advocacy of the responsibility to end life at the right time.

**Thais Queiroz Morcatty**

“Wildlife Trade in Latin America: people, economy and conservation”

**Steven Charles Sanders**

“The Evolution of Eighteenth-Century Upholders in London”

**Anne Margaret Burgess Youngson**

“Once Upon a Time: How Stories Start, Narrative Theory and Practice”

**Doctor of Education**

**Robert Curry**

“Exploring service development to scaffold cross-disciplinary critical maker-learning in a Higher Education Academic Library makerspace: A Case Study through the lens of Cultural-Historical Activity Theory”

**Lesley Glass**

“Exploring influences on academic identity development: stories of Visiting Lecturers in post-92 UK business schools”

**Lorna Shires**

“Expert teaching: what matters to expert teachers? A cultural-historical perspective on relational expertise”

**Anne Smith**

“Canaries in the Coalmine: An investigation of the relative age effect within further education”

**PhD by Published Work**

**Anna Elizabeth Schmider**

“Knowledge, Power, and International Development: Beyond Critique”

**MA by Research**

**Victoria Buxton**

“The Unknown Life of the Philosopher: The Significance of Biography for the Pursuit of the Good Life”

**Matthew James Cooper**

“The Pragmatic Problem of Evil”

**Joshua D'Arcy-Grantham**

“‘It’s all a cover-up!’: An Examination of Epistemic Vices and Conspiracy Theories in the Internet Age”

**Georgina Barbara Fuszard**

“Error ‘Theory After J.L Mackie: Contemporary Error Theorists’ Arguments’ ”

**Deborah Louise McGuire**

“ ‘Remember Me’. Domestic Textiles in Britain 1790-1890: Memory, Identity and Emotion”

**Amy Eliza Lucy Pollard**

“Playing in the Literary Sandbox: An investigation of fanfiction writers and readers, exploring relationships between fanfiction as a subversive and dialogic literary form, and issues of authorship, representation, empathy and community”

**MSc by Research**

**Alexandra Joanne Chesters**

“ ‘Does it Spark Joy?’: KonMari Decluttering in the UK”

**Alastair Charles Findlay**

“Assessing the Spatial Distribution of Volcanic Risk for Tourists on the Island of Santorini”

**Faculty of Technology,  
Design & Environment**

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**Gokhan Budan**

“Connected and Automated Vehicle Enabled Traffic Intersection Control with Reinforcement Learning”

**Beatrice Catanzaro**

“Journey into Relatedness. Ways to overcome the separation between inner and outer action, engender eco-social insight and facilitate new forms of transdisciplinary Connective Practice, Social Sculpture and Socially Engaged Art”

**Caterina Frisone**

“The Architecture of Care. The Role of Architecture in the Therapeutic Environment. The Case of the Maggie’s Cancer Care Centre”

**Clara Giannini**

“Modes of film production in 1950s Italy”

**Alexander John Hollingsworth**

“English Sub-Regional Planning: Governance, Institutions and Outcomes in East Anglia”

**Alex Newton**

“Uncanny Bodies: an arts practice-based exploration of strategies to embody thresholds between life and death”

**Leander Reeves**

“Mapping the sources of the Hyperreal: Re-evaluating the emergence of Hyperreality”

**Stefan Stojanovic**

“Injector Characterisation Measurement Technology for a Production Environment”

**PhD by Published Work**

**Jane Anderson**

“How can live projects stimulate progress in education, research, and practice? The establishment of live project / designbuild / community design education as a global and rigorous field of activity and inquiry”

**Janice Howard**

“Occupying a space in-between: a video art research practice”

**Grant Jamie Scott**

“Narrative and Visual Story-telling: Accessing Memory and the Personal in the Published Work of Grant Scott”



*Graduate College Newsletter*, the newsletter of the research student community at Oxford Brookes University.

Thank you to all current students and alumni who have contributed to this edition of the Newsletter.

If you would like to contribute please email [asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk)