CONGRATULATIONS: NEW PROMOTIONS

Dr. Iroise Dumontheil promoted to Reader. She was also awarded the prestigious British Psychological Society’s Spearman Medal for outstanding early career research.

INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURES

4th June: Professor Matt Longo on Distorted body representations and conscious body image

18th June: Professor Rick Cooper on Computational modelling of the cognitive processes underlying action and thought

NEWLY JOINING THE DEPARTMENT

New Lecturer, Dr. Adam Tierny, joined the Department from Northwestern University, USA
Dr. Jorge Gato (Faculty of Psychology and Education - University of Porto (FPCE-UP)) is visiting the Department until September 2015. Jorge has conducted a pioneering study in Portugal about attitudes toward lesbian and gay parented families (Gato, 2014, Homoparentalidades: Perspetivas Psicologicas. Coimbra, PT: Almedina). During Jorge’s visit to Birkbeck, Dr. Fiona Tasker will be collaborating with him on his research project on “current and prospective lesbian and gay parenting: contextual and psychological determinants” funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) in Portugal.

Dr. Fiona Tasker was invited to attend a Ministerial roundtable discussion at the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on Tuesday 3rd March chaired by Jo Swinson MP, Minister for Women and Equalities on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parent Families and Public Services.

Dr Iroise Dumontheil was interviewed for a BBC World Service radio programme on Mindfulness: Old Wisdom for Modern Times, first broadcast on 28 March
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mgk3v

Pr. Michael Thomas joined in February with members of a new think tank, Learnus (which aims to bridge between the latest academic research and the classroom), in running a session on educational neuroscience at the London Festival of Education, held at the UCL-Institute of Education. A large and enthusiastic audience, some of a philosophical bent, were keen to hear ways that neuroscience could help education that were definitely not reductionist or deterministic.
In May, **Dr. Iroise Dumontheil** and **Pr. Michael Thomas** joined a number of other cognitive neuroscientists in an on-line event organised by Wellcome Trust, in the "I'm a Scientist Get Me Out of Here!" learning zone [http://learning.imascientist.org.uk/](http://learning.imascientist.org.uk/)
The event was aimed at teachers who could ask any questions they wanted about what is currently known about the science of learning. It included Q&A sessions with an expert panel as well as live chats. Some of the questions asked of the Panel are listed below:

- Have you looked at the effect of diet on memory?
- How much does parental involvement affect children's learning and cognitive development?
- What are the most effective ways of revising for exams?
- How do you feel about children spending increasing free time with virtual friends online?
- What are the mechanics behind how the brain learns and stores info?
- How can you tell how much the brain’s development has been affected by the child’s home life, e.g., diet, sleep, attention from parents?
- Does research exist to inform advice about the optimal amount of time between study sessions to improve pupils’ factual recall?
- What reliable research is there about the impact of technology on student learning?
- Which books or papers would you recommend for teachers as an intro to Neuroeducation?
- How important is imagination for learning?

…and many other questions …

Contact Iroise or Michael in person if you’d like to know more about this exciting on-line event.

In May, **Pr. Ted Melhuish** was invited to be an expert witness to an OECD meeting on Developing Educational Provision for Economic Development attended by government officials from OECD countries. The meeting decided on a new survey of Early Childhood for OECD countries.
Our 3\textsuperscript{rd} annual Psychology for Education Day took place on Saturday, 16\textsuperscript{th} May and we were pleased to welcome 98 enthusiastic teachers, teaching assistants and other educators and learning support workers.

Over the course of the day, delegates attended 3 workshops from a choice of 12 on a wide range of topics including Personality and Education, Language Development, Children and Young People’s Mental Health, the Impact of Obesity and many others.

There was a lot of interest in our courses shown, especially our Foundation Degree, MA/MSc Educational Neuroscience and the MSc Psychology programme, with a number of people being pleasantly surprised that they could attain membership of the BPS by taking a postgraduate course!

Feedback has been extremely positive and we look forward to running the event again next year.

If anyone would like to be involved by running a workshop, do let me know (Ana da Cunha Lewin – a.lewin@bbk.ac.uk). If you have any leaflets or literature that you would like to include in our delegate pack, again, please let me know and we will contact you nearer the time.
Pr. Ted Melhuish’s research on early childcare reported in *The Observer*
Pr. Michael Thomas was awarded a £5k grant from the Birkbeck Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund, through their public engagement stream, to design an on-line resource aimed at dispelling 'neuromyths'.

Dr. Iroise Dumontheil obtained a Birkbeck Anniversary PhD studentship to start in October 2015.

Dr. Tim Smith was awarded a grant for MOPIGRASFIT: Motion Picture Grammatical Rating System for Infants and Toddlers. (£135,733), Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions - Individual Fellowship on behalf of Dr. Sermin Ildirar.

Pr. Mark Johnson: The Garfield-Weston foundation have pledged 200,000 for the CBCD Toddler Lab. This adds to previous donations of 2.1 million. Hopefully more news soon!

Pr. Denis Mareschal was an external member for of a Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) german grant review panel. Denis was appointed Expert External Evaluator for an European Commission FP7 Marie Current Centre grant.

Rachael Davis, 3rd year Bloomsbury PhD student, supervised by Pr. Michael Thomas and Tony Charman (IoP), was awarded the prize for best poster at the recent Bloomsbury PhD Symposium. Her poster was entitled "Utilising behavioural data from infants at-risk of autism to predict clinical outcomes"

Pr. Annette Karmiloff-Smith obtained an ESRC-funded PhD studentship to start in October 2015. She was appointed Chair of the BCGES (Bloomsbury Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Statistics) for 2015-2016.
**Manuela Pisch** at Birkbeck, supervised by Annette Karmiloff-Smith, successfully defended her thesis entitled “A longitudinal study of infant sleep and its effect on cognitive development.

**Laura Wolf** (ICN, UCL), whom Dr Iroise Dumontheil second-supervised, was awarded her PhD on 24 April entitled "Effects of peer influence in adolescence".

**Pr. Matthew Longo** was an external reviewer for the PhD of Angela Marotta, entitled”Fooling the Sense of Touch: New Evidence on the Role of Body Representations in Shaping Somatic Perception”, in the Department of Psychology, University of Verona, Italy. He was also an external examiner for the PhDs of Christian Pfeiffer, entitled “Vestibular Contribution to Bodily Self-Consciousness and Multisensory Cortical Processing”, and of Mariia Kaliuzhna, entitled “Balancing the Self: Vestibular Contributions to Sensory and Cognitive Processes', both at the Brain-Mind Institute at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Dr. Clare Press** In April 2015, Anthony Haffey (University of Reading) successfully defended his thesis 'Do autistic traits modulate responsiveness to social rewards?'. His supervisors were Bhisma Chakrabarti and **Clare Press**. His examiners were Laurie Butler (Reading) and Chris Ashwin (Bath). Anthony is currently a postdoc with Bhisma Chakrabarti at the University of Reading.

**Pr. Michael Thomas** served in May as external examiner for the PhD of Stephanie Ainsworth, at University of Manchester, on the topic 'The development of phonological representations in young children'.


**Dr. Fiona Tasker** gave a talk on De-constructing & re-constructing the family in LGB-Parented Families. II Congresso de Psicologia da Universidade Lusófona do Porto (ULP): (Des)construindo famílias: Propostas de investigação e Intervenção. ([De]constructing the family: Research and Interventions). Universidade Lusófona do Porto (ULP), Portugal, April 18, 2015.

**Pr. Martin Eimer** gave an invited symposium talk entitled “The time course of feature-based and object-based control of visual attention” at the 15\textsuperscript{th} Vision Sciences Society (VSS) Annual Meeting, St. Pete Beach, Florida, USA, May 2015.

**Dr. Iroise Dumontheil** gave a talk at the “Retention of Women in Academia” event at the UCL Institute of Education on 6 March. She also gave three talks at the International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS) in Amsterdam on 12-14 March.


**Dr. Eddy Davelaar** gave an invited talk at the UCL Institute of Education on “Understanding neurofeedback”, on 20\textsuperscript{th} May.

**Dr. Alex Shepherd** attended the 25th ADMA meeting in Valencia, Spain, on May 13th, which was a satellite meeting to the International Headache Society Meeting at the same place.
Pr. Mark Johnson delivered the keynote address at the Consortium in Individual Development Symposium 2015, April 10th, Utrecht, The Netherlands, on the topic *The typical and atypical development of the social brain*; the opening lecture, Meeting on the future of autism infant siblings research, Wellcome Trust, 23rd April, London, UK: *Autism infant siblings research: The prodromal stage*; and he was International Keynote Lecturer, at the New perspectives on autism conference at University of Warsaw, Poland, May 9-10: *Babies at-risk for Autism: What have we learned so far?*

Pr. Matthew Longo gave departmental seminars entitled “Distorted Body Representations in Healthy Adults¹ at Goldsmiths, University of London in February 2015, at City University London in March 2015, and at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland in April 2015. He also gave a talk entitled “Where is the Ego in Egocentric Representation?” at the Workshop on Finding Perspective at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics in Tuebingen, Germany in April 2015, and an invited talk entitled “Distorted Body Representations in Action” at the Sensation of Movement Workshop at the Institute of Philosophy, University of London in May 2015.

Pr. Annette Karmiloff-Smith gave invited talks at British Neuroscience Association, Edinburgh in April, at the Association of Psychological Sciences, New York, in May, and at Chicago University in May. All were on “What could babies with Down syndrome possibly tell us about Alzheimer’s dementia in adults? Plus 3 talks on Executive Function and neurodevelopmental disorders at ICPS, Amsterdam on 12-14 March.
Pr. Matt Longo and Dr. Marie Smith gave presentations at the first Girls Day School Trust Psychology Evening at Putney High School to A-level pupils from several schools across London. The talks focused on their recent research work alongside general guidance on pursing further study and careers in Psychology.

Brain sweets and visual illusions added to the fun on the night!
Wednesday, 10th June Departmental Talk at 1pm in Room B36
by Professor **Ulman Lindenberger**
Title: *Individual differences in normal human cognitive aging*

Tuesday, 16th June from 1-2 pm: MAL421, CBCD Colloquium:
**Sid Kouider**, École Normale Supérieure Paris.
Title: *The development of consciousness, predictive coding and metacognitive sensitivity in the infant brain*

**Seminars on Behavioural Genetics**
Wed *3rd June 2015*, 1-2pm, Bennett Room (Lower Ground), LSHTM
**Dr Inês Barroso**, Head Human Genetics, Wellcome Trust Sanger Inst.
Title: *Genes and Metabolism: What lessons have we learned so far?*

Thursday *18 June 2015*, 5:15, John Snow LT, LSHTM
**Inaugural Lecture - Professor Frank Dudbridge**, Statistical Genetics
Title: *All in the genes, or in all the genes*

Thursday *9 July 2015*, 12-1pm, Pearson (N.E, Entrance) G22 LT, UCL
**Prof Jorge Iriart**, Inst. Collective Health, Federal Uni. Bahia, Brazil
Title: *TBC*

**Short courses September 2015**
Course 1: *Introduction to Genetic Epidemiology in the GWAS era*
Tuesday 1st September - Friday 4th September 2015
Course 2: *High throughput sequencing in disease studies*
midday Monday 7th September - midday Friday 11th September 2015
For more details and to book a place visit [UCL Online Store](#).
**UCL staff and students please contact Simona Wade (s.wade@ucl.ac.uk) to arrange payment via IDT.**
The Biology and Psychology of Sex Differences in Development

Morning session: Biological & Cognitive mechanisms, 10.30-12.30

Bonnie Auyeung, Edinburgh University - Prenatal hormone effects on sex differences in early development and Autism
May Ling Halim, California State University Long Beach – Gender socialization in development
Helen Spiers, King’s College, London – Epigenetics
Discussant - Gaia Scerif, Oxford University

12.30-13.30 Lunch

Afternoon session: Psychopathology, 1.30-3.30pm

Rachael Bedford & Teodora Gliga, Birkbeck College – Differential sex effects: from risk to outcome
Florin Tibu, University of Bucharest - Sex differences in psychopathology following early deprivation
Angelica Ronald, Birkbeck College - TBC
Discussant - Bishma Chakrabarti, Cambridge University 3.30-4pm Tea break

4-5pm General discussion Andrew Pickles, Institute of Psychiatry
For International Women’s Week there was a women’s networking lunch. This was supported and attended by the Minister for Women and Equalities, Jo Swinson MP, and Birkbeck Master, Professor David Latchman who both spoke about inspiring the next generation of women scientists, as well as the Exec Dean of Science, Dr Nick Keep and Asst Dean for Equalities Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Other networking opportunities will follow and Belinda is keen to hear what Psychology Staff would like to take part in.

**Belinda Brooks Gordon will be submitting our new Athena SWAN this November.**

**All suggestions very welcome!**

Members of the Dept of Psychological sciences attended a special event at which Prof Helen Lawton-Smith facilitated engagement between Birkbeck staff and business leaders on best practice at a TRIGGER event on Equalities on 10th March.
Each year the Academy of Medical Sciences elects a small number of clinical/non-clinical medical scholars to Fellowship (FMedSci). There are many women in medical sciences, yet below is the shocking situation with regard to the current fellowship, alas typical also of other academies/societies…

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<thead>
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<th>Gender</th>
<th>Academic category</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical</td>
<td>Non-clinical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>507 (47.8%)</td>
<td>401 (37.8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>53 (5.0%)</td>
<td>100 (9.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>560 (52.8%)</td>
<td>501 (47.2%)</td>
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What about a yearly Birkbeck guest **WIPS** lecture by invited female speakers, in tribute to overshadowed women in science…

**Women-in-Psychological-Sciences**

Rosland Franklin  
Barbel Inhelder  
Marthe Gautier

Read Georgina Ferry's biography of the only British female scientist to receive the Nobel Prize and who worked at Birkbec

*Dorothy Hodgkin: A Life*

The book was shortlisted for the Duff Cooper Prize and the Marsh Biography Award. Bloomsbury Reader 2014 edition with new preface. See more at: [http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/dorothy-hodgkin-9781448214549/#sthash.XPBmJt1e.dpuf](http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/dorothy-hodgkin-9781448214549/#sthash.XPBmJt1e.dpuf)