

HSSnews

The Humanities and Social Sciences Newsletter • Queen Mary, University of London • Issue 11

GRAND DESIGNS

A new era in higher education heralds a fresh direction for the Faculty and the opening of a flagship building **page 10**



DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Talking up the study of languages **page 12**



Olympic opportunity for film students
Schools news
pages 2-8



Book award for Matt Rubery
Appointments, promotions and prizes
page 14



Lord Healey makes Mile End appearance
Events
page 20

Schools news

School of History



PROFESSOR
AMANDA VICKERY

PROFESSOR
TILLI TANSEY

Amanda Vickery among historic appointments

The School of History has made three new high profile appointments in recent months.

Household name Amanda Vickery moved to her new home at Queen Mary in the New Year. As Professor of Early Modern History, author and broadcaster Vickery will oversee two brand new courses exploring English home life from the seventeenth century to the mid-Victorian era.

Another new arrival is a research scientist who took an unusual career path from the laboratory to the study of the history of medicine.

Professor Tilli Tansey, who originally specialised in neuroscience, brings a

wealth of experience from her previous professorial post at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London.

The College is also pleased to welcome Professor Gareth Stedman Jones who joined Queen Mary in September from the University of Cambridge, where he was Director of the Centre for History and Economics.

Professor Stedman Jones, who now teaches on the MA in the History of Political Thought, specialises in political, intellectual and economic history of Europe from the time of the French Revolution.

Putting science and religion under the microscope



DR THOMAS DIXON

Historian Thomas Dixon presented a major BBC Four documentary *A Horizon Guide to Science and*

Religion in autumn 2010, exploring the long and troubled relationship between the two.

The author of *Science and Religion: A Very Short Introduction*, Dr Dixon delved into a rich archive of BBC programmes to identify what lies behind this difficult affiliation.

The documentary looked at what happens when new scientific discoveries start to explain events that were once seen as the 'workings of God', and explained how some of our most famous scientists have seen God in the grandest laws of the universe.

American Civil War hits streets of London



DR TOM SEBRELL

An entrepreneurial historian at Queen Mary has established a unique walking tour exploring historic sites in London with American Civil War connections.

Dr Tom Sebrell, who is now an Honorary Postdoctoral Associate, came up with the concept during his PhD. He spent four years researching the Civil War propaganda movement that thrived in Britain while the conflict raged between Southern slave states fighting for independence from the United States between 1861 and 1865.

During that time, Dr Sebrell discovered numerous buildings and locations around the capital that look "pretty much as they did in the 1860s"; crucial to this previously untold side of the Civil War story, and the future of the United States.

With the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the war in April 2011, Dr Sebrell saw a business opportunity. He set up a partnership with Queen Mary Innovation Ltd to create three

hour-long walking tours around Marylebone, Mayfair and the City, taking in the sites he had discovered.

"The tours," he explains, "bring back to life the long forgotten stories not only of the Union and Confederate agents and diplomats stationed in London throughout the war, but the British response to the American Civil War arriving at their doorstep."

The British Library has just selected Tom to act as historical advisor for its new online Britain and the American Civil War Project, and *BBC History Magazine* is to run a special feature on his research in its April 2011 edition.

Go to www.acwlondon.org for full American Civil War tour details. ■



School of Law

Law school rated best in the capital

The School of Law has been ranked first in London and third nationwide in the *Guardian's* annual University Guide. The School has also been listed as a top 10 place to study law, according to figures published by *The Times* and *The Independent* in 2010.

Professor Peter Alldridge, head of the Department of Law, says the guides are clear recognition that, "we offer a wonderful all-round legal education. We emphasise academic excellence, and also, through our award-winning Legal Advice Centre and pro bono activities, offer students excellent inter-personal and career development."

Celebrating supreme success

Lord Hoffman, Nicholas Green QC, the chairman of the Bar and Lord MacDonald QC were among the top legal minds speaking at a conference to mark the 30th anniversary of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS).

The event, held in Lincoln's Inn Fields in November, looked back on the first year of the UK Supreme Court, with a host of lively discussions on its role as the final court of appeal for civil cases, and, more broadly, key developments in English law.

"The Supreme Court is, perhaps, the most pivotal institution for lawyers," explains Professor Takis Tridimas, Deputy Director of CCLS. "It was pleasing to provide the forum for such an engaging scholarly discussion and bring together leading members of the legal community."

Also present was Sir Roy Goode, who established CCLS back in 1980 to promote the systematic study and research of commercial law and its social and economic implications. Since then this dedicated postgraduate Centre has acquired an international reputation, composition and outlook.



LORD HOFFMAN

Launch of Peace Process project

A major new project on conflict and the peace process in Ireland has been launched by legal researchers at Queen Mary.

Capturing testimony on the most traumatic and significant events in Anglo-Irish history, the project aims to avert a major loss to national heritage and to preserve voices that will speak across the generations.

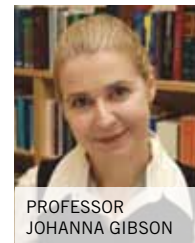
The three-year project is overseen by Professor Seán McConville and Dr Anna Bryson, both experienced scholars in oral

history research relating to Irish politics.

The project, funded through the European Union's PEACE III Programme, aims to record around 100 heritage interviews with key figures in peace and reconciliation over the last four decades.

The other major aim is to establish an oral history training programme for people living in Irish border communities. The idea being they will generate a hub of oral history research, and help to heal rifts between North and South.

Intellectual Property Institute joins College



PROFESSOR JOHANNA GIBSON

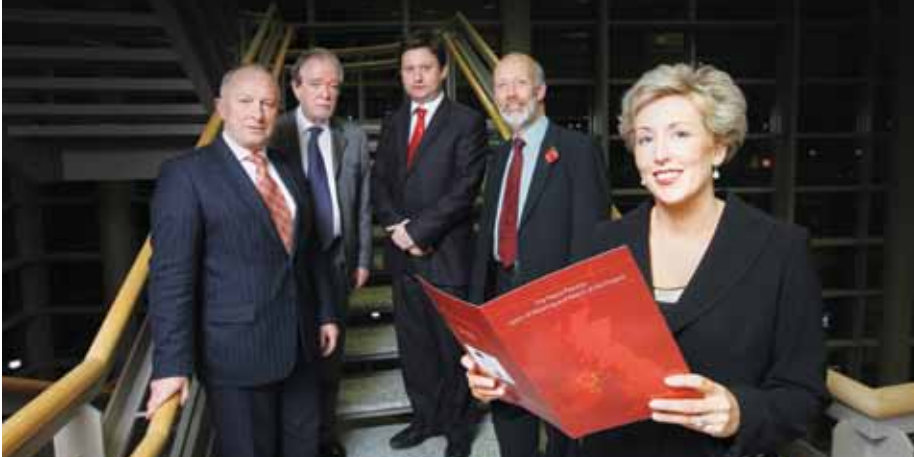
The Intellectual Property Institute (IPI) entered a landmark agreement with the College in 2010. The IPI now operates from CCLS, within the School of Law,

in collaboration with the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Institute (QMIPRI).

Professor Johanna Gibson, Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property Law at Queen Mary, and Director of QMIPRI, is also the new Director of IPI as part of the move, bringing together two of the most influential IP research bodies in the UK today.

"Queen Mary has a long history of excellence in research and scholarship in intellectual property," explains Professor Gibson, the first woman to hold the prestigious Herchel Smith Chair, and the first female director of IPI, "and this collaboration extends our ability to produce cutting-edge research in Britain and overseas."

Under Professor Gibson's strategic lead, QMIPRI and IPI intend to create a new "hub for IP research in the heart of legal London", putting the capital at the "forefront of intellectual property research globally". ■



IRISH JUSTICE MINISTER DERMOT AHERN T.D., PROFESSOR SEAN MCCONVILLE, MR DENIS CUMMINS – PRESIDENT DUNDALK IT, NI JUSTICE MINISTER DAVID FORD MLA, DR ANNA BRYSON AT THE LAUNCH

School of Languages, Linguistics and Film

Earliest films of the Holocaust rediscovered



A Russian Cinema expert at Queen Mary has rediscovered a collection of World War II films, documenting Nazi atrocities towards Soviet Jews, hidden for more than 60 years in Russia's State Archives.

Dr Jeremy Hicks found over 100 hours of previously unreleased footage, mostly outtakes originally recorded for Soviet newsreels, while researching his new book on Soviet cinema.

In November he gave the annual School of Languages, Linguistics and Film Lecture, where he argued that these images, dating back to 1941, should be designated the first

cinematic representations of the Holocaust.

In the shorthand of history, explains Hicks, we tend to conceive of the Holocaust in terms of the death camps in Poland, but often represent it through images of concentration camps in Germany, liberated in 1945 by Allied troops, and captured on film by British and American newsreel cameramen.

“But the mass murder started earlier and it started in the Soviet Union, with the mass killings of up to two million Soviet Jews, shot or starved by German troops during the war. Their plight has not had its place in cinematography.”

Mile End Films to capture Olympic spirit

Mile End Films, Queen Mary's in-house film production unit, was recently selected to document the highs and lows of up-and-coming British Olympic athletes as they journey towards London 2012 and Rio 2016.

Shooting, which began in 2010, will run right up to the London Games, with the finished films populating the website of UK Sport – the strategic lead body for high performance sport in Britain. The BBC has also shown an interest in acquiring the footage.

Established just over a year ago by Assistant Technical Director for Film Studies, Athena Mandis the unit has quickly established itself as a trusted provider of cutting-edge promotional content.



“All the filming and editing for UK Sport has been done by our Film Studies graduates,” explains Athena.

“We have strong industry links with high-profile production companies such as Brassneck TV and Mandrake Films,

so students get an enviable chance to learn valuable industry skills alongside established broadcast professionals.

“One student from the project has already been offered work on a four-part series for SKY ARTS,” she adds. ■



School of English and Drama

Beautiful Interview with Bardem

As an advisor to the UK's biggest film festival, Professor Maria Delgado, of the School of English and Drama, regularly meets a host of international stars and film-makers from the Spanish-speaking world.

The 54th London Film Festival, held in October, was no exception, as she was selected to interview Oscar-winning actor Javier Bardem, Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu and fellow

actor-director Diego Luna.

Delgado, Professor of Theatre and Screen Arts, later chaired a discussion with Bardem and González Iñárritu for BAFTA while they were in London for the UK premiere of *Beautiful*, which was released in the UK in early 2011.

"The Q&A sessions are unpredictable", says Delgado, "you never know how a filmmaker will respond, which is part of the excitement."

ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ IÑÁRRITU MASTERCLASS

Presented in association with
The National Film and Television School
and The Script Factory



New drama research to tackle classroom misbehaviour

With increasing focus on disruptive behaviour in primary schools, the UK government has placed 'emotional literacy' on to the national curriculum.

A research project at Queen Mary has been asking whether this is an appropriate goal for policy-makers and how it might be achieved in schools.

With £100,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, senior drama lecturer Ali Campbell has developed a series of workshops, using role-play and body language to help children investigate issues such as bullying, peer-pressure and classroom violence.

"It is important for children tell stories, perform and to reflect on their own feelings," says Ali. "Emotional literacy can help children express what they do in the playground, but in a more structured and supervised way."

To help teachers deliver this facet of the curriculum, Ali is currently producing

a toolkit, providing guidance on how to run the workshop and suggestions of activities to help engage pupils.

The Embodied Emotions project culminated in an event in November, where children from Osmani School in Whitechapel presented their workshops to teachers, parents, artists and performers. If follow-up funding is secured Ali hopes to roll out the model nationally.



Making an impact on reading habits



English literature and language studies at Queen Mary performed outstandingly in a recent impact pilot for the new Research Excellence Framework, run by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The first REF will replace the Research Assessment Exercise in 2014 as the means of distributing £1.5bn in annual quality-related funding in England, with up to 25 per cent of scores based on impact on society and policy.

The Department of English was awarded top marks for its submissions – four 'case studies', including one on poetry, a specialism for several scholars who have made considerable efforts to broaden its appeal and influence.

Professor Peggy Reynolds, for example, writes and produces a very popular BBC Radio 4 series on reading and understanding verse called *Adventures in Poetry*.

Meanwhile Dr Andrea Brady has an innovative internet-based poetry archive, 'The Archive of the Now', which allows the public to download mp3 files of contemporary poets reading and discussing their works.

"Poetry is very popular, yet it is also widely recognised as difficult, especially contemporary poetry," suggests the Director of Research for English, Professor Markman Ellis. "We can show that work like this – using audited audience figures and web clicks – has a very broad public audience, and can change readers' behaviour." ■

School of Politics and International Relations

Politics experts scoop Leverhulme Fellowships

The School of Politics and International Relations has secured two prestigious Leverhulme Research Fellowships.

Dr Adam Fagan, Reader in Politics, has been awarded £40,000 for his project entitled 'Building Kosovo: an Evaluation of EU intervention', which looks at the controversial role of the European Union in the post-conflict Yugoslav state.

Dr Rainbow Murray, Senior Lecturer in Politics, has been awarded £45,000 for her project: 'The Impact of Gender Quotas on Parliament'. The study examines the representation of women in French politics.

"Gender quotas are rapidly altering the composition of parliaments worldwide," notes Dr Murray, "with real consequences for parliamentary behaviour and representation."

International name launches new school name



A world authority on international relations, and former student at Westfield College, delivered the inaugural lecture

to launch the School of Politics and International Relations in October.

Professor J. Ann Tickner flew in from California to speak to staff and students about what really happens when world leaders come to the negotiation table.

Tickner, who graduated from Westfield in 1959, has been fundamental to establishing the study of gender and feminist perspectives in international relations.

The School recently established the annual Tickner Prize for the Best Masters Dissertation in International Relations to recognise Professor Tickner's singular contribution to the field and past association with the College.

WikiLeaks means dodging the issue no longer an option

In the biggest official files leak in history, nearly 400,000 Iraq war logs from the Pentagon were made public via the whistleblower website WikiLeaks in October.

Many news outlets turned to Dr Toby Dodge, Iraqi war and politics expert at Queen Mary, for his opinion on the revelations of mass civilian deaths and new torture allegations against US military forces.

He was interviewed by the Channel

4 *Dispatches* programme, 'Iraq's Secret War Files' and later by *The Times*, *Sunday Times* and the *Guardian*, where he said the political storm caused by the WikiLeaks documents "failed to ignite public outrage".

What they did do, he argued, was to demonstrate a casual attitude towards torture and civilian deaths during the years after the US-led invasion, and exposed an almost "absurd level of secrecy in western centres of power". ■



School of Economics and Finance

Topping the table in National Student Satisfaction Survey

The School of Economics and Finance has been voted the best in London, according to the National Student Satisfaction Survey 2010.

Some 88 per cent of students enjoyed their time at Queen Mary and expressed

satisfaction with the quality of their degree programme, ahead of the nine other higher education institutions teaching economics in the capital.

Guglielmo Volpe, Senior Economics Tutor said the NSS results demonstrate how the School's strategy is working to create a "constructive, lively and engaging environment" for students, with all the resources and support that they need to "develop their potential".

Volpe cited new initiatives that will further enhance the students' learning experience, including the PASS mentoring scheme, where first-year undergraduates are helped out by fellow higher-year students, the Audience Response System for interactive voting in seminars and lectures, and the out-of-hours maths club.



School of Economics and Finance launch



KATE BARKER CBE

The Department of Economics at Queen Mary has become the School of Economics and Finance, at the same time unveiling its five-year expansion programme, and

a portfolio of new financial courses.

To mark the occasion, the School held

a special event at Butchers' Hall in central London in October, with guest speaker Kate Barker, CBE, former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

Barker, a leading economist, spoke to a 200-strong audience about the serious challenge that the current financial turbulence poses to the UK monetary policy framework. Her comments were picked up by *Bloomberg*, the

leading business news network.

The School aims to join the top 10 economic and finance schools in the UK (in terms of size) in the next five years. And is already offering students a choice of new courses and vocational modules tailored to finance in practice, including an MSc in Finance and Accounting, run jointly with the School of Business and Management. ■

School of Business and Management

L-R: DR ISHANI CHANDRASEKARA; PROFESSOR STEFANO HARNEY; DR EMMA DOWLING; PROFESSOR PETER FLEMING; PROFESSOR DENISE FERREIRA DA SILVA



Business school lead the way to the 'big society'

The School of Business and Management has set up the first free consultancy service from a university to help not-for-profit-organisations become more business savvy – particularly vital as government funding cuts bite.

The NGO clinic is modelled on law schools, which have a well-established pro bono (free-of-charge) tradition, making the best professional advice available free of charge to clients who cannot afford to pay.

As with its Legal Advice Centre, Queen Mary's Business school will soon

offer undergraduates internships with its NGO clinic. Under the supervision of academic experts they will offer professional guidance to clients, learning valuable consultancy skills that give them an edge in the job market.

Increasingly, third sector organisations are required to concentrate on their management, governance, and accountability structures as a condition of funding, but they may not have the necessary expertise or money to make the grade.

The NGO clinic is designed to offer free consultancy to meet these challenges, and such is its success, that it recently

spawned a sister clinic at the University of Essex, and another is now in the offing at the School of Management, University of Leicester.

"In an era when many people question business school ethics, developing a pro bono culture, instead of just lining pockets with paid consultancy work, is a way for business schools to put their money where their mouth is, and broaden the impact of business scholarship on society," says Professor Stefano Harney, NGO clinic director.



New MSc for business brains

In a climate of rapid change and stiff competition on a global scale, most companies require a special combination of knowledge and skills in their managers.

To meet these demands, the School of Business and Management is launching an innovative new MSc Global Business in 2011.

This new taught postgraduate course introduces students to the process of globalisation and its implications for firms,

explores the economies and policies of global trade and investment and examines different strategies that businesses can adopt to compete in specific foreign markets.

Course director Professor Brigitte Granville says students will receive a "stimulating grounding" in the full range of academic disciplines required for a "sound grasp of the corporate environment". ■

School of Geography

Dig discovers ancient Britons were earliest North Europeans

A Queen Mary geographer is part of a team which has unearthed evidence of the earliest human occupation in Britain – and is revolutionising the way we think about how northern Europe was first populated.

Dr Simon Lewis has a geological role alongside archaeologists, palaeontologists and earth scientists from UCL, the British Museum and the Natural History Museum, excavating the site at Happisburg on the Norfolk coast.

Their latest findings, over 70 flint tools and flakes, demonstrate that ancient humans inhabited Britain over 800,000 years ago, marking the first known settlement in northern Europe – far earlier than previously thought.

Involved in the project since 2005, Dr Lewis is responsible for describing and



interpreting sediments and establishing the sequence in which the archaeological and environmental evidence is placed.

“The project extends the record of human presence in Britain back by at least 100,000 years,” explains Dr Lewis, “and helps to establish the environment in which early settlers lived.”

Students gear up for the big freeze

Two adventurous geography students at Queen Mary have been invited on the trip of a lifetime to the Antarctic Peninsula, following in the footsteps of the great explorers Shackleton and Scott.

Ginny Bernadout, 23, who is studying for a PhD in Physical Geography, and 21-year-old Amy Ennis who completed her undergraduate studies last year, have been chosen to accompany Robert Swan OBE on his polar expedition in March, as part of the 2041 Inspire Antarctic Expeditions.

Swan was the first person in history to walk to both the North and South poles and has dedicated his life to the preservation of Antarctica by the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability to combat climate change.

Ginny and Amy will be among 50 students taking in the sight of icebergs, humpback whales, and 40,000 nesting penguins along the way.



On their return Ginny and Amy will act as environmental ambassadors, educating school children in Tower Hamlets of the devastating affects of human activity on the planet.

“To be able to avoid irreversible damage to some of the most precious habitats we have, we all need to make changes in the way we lead our everyday lives,” says Ginny. “Educating the next generation and giving them the same passion we have is our way of making an impact.”

For the expedition, Ginny and Amy need to raise £30,000. To make a donation please email: ginnyandamyofantarctica@googlegmail.com ■

Bringing home research

There’s no place like home, particularly when it comes to cutting-edge research, as Queen Mary is proving with a new centre dedicated to its study, partnered by The Geffrye Museum in east London.

Launched this February, the new Centre for Studies of Home aims to lead the field internationally, bringing together academics and museum curators with a shared interest and expertise in house and home, past and present.

The Centre is co-directed by Professor Alison Blunt and Dr Alastair Owens, of the School of Geography, and Eleanor John, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at the Geffrye Museum, which specialises in the history of English interiors.



At present, some 15 academics at the College are researching the home in a range of disciplines including geography, history, English and psychology.

Those experts include Markman Ellis, from the School of English and Drama, who studies tea-table culture in eighteenth-century England; Alasdair King, of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, who researches depictions of ‘home’ and ‘homeland’ in contemporary European cinema; and historian Amanda Vickery who specialises in English domestic life from the 1600s to today.

“The Centre offers exciting opportunities to explore diverse themes such as interior design, the relationships between home, household and identity, and the diversity of home-making on a global scale,” explains Professor Blunt, who works on ideas about the city as home.

“Within the first year, the Centre will stage a public seminar series, an annual lecture highlighting the fruits of our research and make a number of applications for collaborative doctoral studentships, research fellowships and research grants,” she adds.

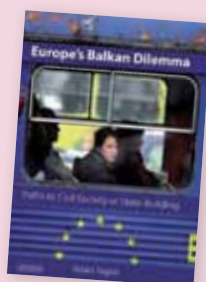
Recently published books

Professor Peter Evans
Film Studies
Top Hat (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)

Dr Simon Reid-Henry
Cuban Cure: Reason and Resistance in Global Science (The University of Chicago Press)



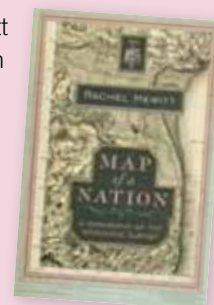
Dr Adam Fagan
School of Politics and International Relations
Europe's Balkan Dilemma: Paths to Civil Society or State-Building? (MacMillan, 2010)



Professor Ray Kiely
School of Politics and International Relations
Rethinking Imperialism (Palgrave, 2010)

Dr Raphael Leal-Arcas
School of Law
International Trade and Investment Law: Multilateral, Regional and Bilateral Governance (Elgar, 2010)

Dr. Rachel Hewitt
School of English and Drama
'Map of a Nation: A Biography of the Ordnance Survey' (Granta, 2010)



Dr Guido Westkamp
School of Law
Privacy and Publicity (Nomos, 2010)

Professor Geraldine Healy;
Dr Gill Kirton and Professor Mike Noon
School of Business and Management
Equality, inequalities and diversity – contemporary challenges and strategies (Palgrave, 2010)

Dr Julia Hornle
School of Law
Cross-border Online Gambling Law and Policy (Edward Elgar Pub, 2010)

Dr Paul Duguid
School of Business and Management
Trademarks, Brands & Competitiveness (London: Routledge, 2010)

Bryan Mabee
School of Politics and International Relations
Mercenaries, Pirates, Bandits, and Empires: Private Violence in Historical Context (Hurst & Columbia University Press, 2011)



Professor Peter Hennessy
School of History
The Secret State: Preparing For The Worst 1945-2010 (Penguin, 2010)



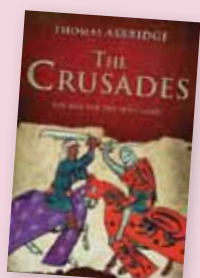
Roland Pietsch
School of History
The Real Jim Hawkins: Ships' Boys in the Georgian Navy (Seaforth Publishing, 2010)



Professor Kenneth Armstrong
School of Law
Governing Social Inclusion: Europeanization through Policy Coordination (Oxford University Press, 2010)

Ann Mumford
School of Law
Tax Policy, Women and the Law: UK and Comparative Perspectives (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Dr Tom Ashbridge
School of History
The Crusades: The War for the Holy Land (Simon & Schuster, 2010)



Dr Matthew Taunton
School of English and Drama
Fictions of the City: Class, Culture and Mass Housing in London and Paris (Palgrave, 2009)



Professor Kevin Sharpe
School of English and Drama
Image Wars: Promoting Kings and Commonwealths in England, 1603-1660 (Yale University Press, 2010) ■





THE NEW ARTS 2 BUILDING

New horizons for humanities

A new five-year strategic plan will shape the future direction of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Vice-Principal Morag Shiach explains to Emma Lowry what's in store.

In the wake of The Lord Browne review into higher education funding, and planned cuts to the teaching grant for 2011-12, universities will have to look beyond the public purse to survive and thrive.

Alongside the need to boost private sponsorship, alumni gift-giving, and to draw more international students, higher tuition fees will shake-up the sector like never before.

With this sea change in mind, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is responding confidently and creatively; unveiling a new strategy to meet the funding challenges ahead and allow it to continue delivering research and teaching of the highest quality.

"We are clearly entering a world in which graduates will contribute more to the costs of their degree," explains Vice-Principal and Executive Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Morag Shiach.

"Students will expect programmes of the highest quality that prepare them

for their future lives, and we must be able to respond to this expectation.

"I, for one, am confident that students will still choose to study humanities and social sciences; they understand the importance of these subjects, intellectually, and also recognise they can enhance their career prospects.

"But to compete in this global education marketplace Queen Mary has to become the destination of choice for these subjects."

As future students shop around, comparing the degree experience they can expect, performance in the National Student Survey and other university league tables will become even more critical.

"The Faculty performs very well in the NSS on the whole," states Professor Shiach, "over half our Schools scored over 90 per cent for student satisfaction in 2010, which is very good; as were our results for teaching."

Under the strategic plan, the Faculty will continue to introduce and invest in

the kinds of top-quality programmes that are, as Professor Shiach explains, "valuable enough for students to pay highly for".

The College's LLM programme, for instance, is already the biggest recruiter in London. "It's very popular and has grown very quickly," says Professor Shiach. "It is the sort of programme where we have the potential to add new pathways and grow further, and still offer an excellent student experience."

For those disciplines whose programmes might be smaller in scale, but academically very valuable within the Faculty, the strategic priority is to boost research power in the coming years.

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, the Faculty had some Schools that were producing top quality research, but had a relatively small number of staff. This negatively affected their research power rating.

"With that in mind we are trying to find the means to invest in best performing disciplines to ensure they have a strong research presence," explains Professor Shiach.

"You can't allow disciplines such as Linguistics; English, Drama or Geography which excelled in the last RAE – coming



first or second in their disciplines nationally – to slip in the rankings, so we have already started adding posts.”

In fact, an investment plan for the Faculty was recently agreed by Queen Mary Senior Executive, which will allow for the appointment of more than 20 new staff.

There are no plans, adds Professor Shiach to withdraw from any area of study that the Faculty is currently involved in, because “we don’t have any Schools that are not successful in at least some measures”.

“However, programmes that remain small in scale are going to have to be delivered in a more efficient and innovative way.”

That might mean Schools establishing one core programme with a variety of pathways, or increasing the rate of cross-faculty initiatives – a previously untapped resource.

The School of History, for one, is already building research links with the School of Medicine and Dentistry, collaborating on the history of medicine, following the recent arrival of Professor Tilli Tansey, from the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine.

There is also a proposal for a Masters in Mathematical Finance, run jointly between the School of Mathematics and The School of Economics and Finance.

As part of the strategic plan, and to bring the College in line with the UK’s best universities, the postgraduate body within

the Faculty is set to grow substantially.

“Our numbers are roughly 75 per cent undergraduate and 25 per cent postgraduate at present,” says Professor Shaich, “but we want the proportion of postgraduates to be more in the realm of 35 to 40 per cent, which is the typical profile in the most successful research-intensive universities.”

This aim is being realised, partly thanks to the recent announcement that Queen Mary had been awarded Doctoral Training Centre status, alongside Goldsmiths, becoming

“I, for one, am confident that students will still choose to study humanities and social sciences; they understand the importance of these subjects, intellectually, and also recognise they can enhance their career prospects.”

one of only 21 such centres nationally.

Over the next five years, 50 PhD students at the two universities will be fully-funded for their fees and living costs – 10 in each year – and this will be paid for by the Economics and Social Research Council. This represents double the number funded previously at the two universities.

“By working together, we will raise even higher the standard of our postgraduate training and widen opportunities for the entire social science cohort at both institutions and beyond,” says Professor Shiach.

In line with the rest of Queen Mary, the

Faculty will also set about increasing the entry tariffs for many programmes. “Presently we are giving a false impression of the College to potential students; we should be setting the bar much higher to rectify that,” she adds.

Quite a number of Schools will be moving to three As in the next two years. English and Drama, Politics and International Relations, and Law will be asking for at least one A*.

Top class students will also benefit from first-class surroundings, as the Faculty

continues to invest in its physical environment. When the School of History moves to the new £21m Arts 2 Building later this year, Arts 1 will be completely refurbished to better accommodate the Schools of English and Drama; Politics and International Relations; Languages, Linguistics and Film.

“Will there be tough decisions, yes, but we know what we need to do to succeed, and we know where we have the potential to grow,” says Professor Shiach.

“Our objectives are achievable and the Faculty as a whole is committed to them and that is a great position to be in.” ■



Department of Linguistics: Speaking the language of success

With a new Masters in the offing, and ranked number one in the UK for research, the Department of Linguistics is certainly talking the talk, as Emma Lowry finds out.

PROFESSOR
DAVID ADGER

Linguistics, at its heart, not only encourages us to learn about the structure of language and how languages differ from each other, it's a way of "getting insight into human nature and what makes us tick", says Professor David Adger, chair of Linguistics at Queen Mary.

"Unlike any other animal, something biological about the nature of human brains allows us to construct and use language, and that's fascinating to linguists," he adds.

Although linguistics is, broadly, the scientific study of language, it draws on techniques and knowledge from disciplines as diverse as philosophy, mathematics, biology, psychology, and sociology.

That linguistics transcends traditional boundaries between the arts and sciences, is at least part of its appeal. However, the discipline itself tends to be divided, with scholars in the field falling into one of two camps – either taking the perspective that language is a part of human cognition, or part of human social interaction.

"One of the things that marks out our linguistics department from others," says Professor Adger, "is that academics from both the sociolinguistics and formal linguistics sides get on well intellectually."

In fact, recruiting new academics "not antagonistic to other ways of thinking" was a key factor in building up the department from just two linguists 10 years ago to the present cohort of nine.

The Department is big on ambition and big on success, topping the table for linguistics nationally in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, and ranking first in London and third in the UK, just behind Cambridge and Oxford, in *The Times' Good University Guide 2011*.

"The injection of new talent boosted

our position in the RAE 2008," explains Professor Adger, "and has helped us secure over £2m in research grant money, which for a department of our size, in the humanities, is no mean feat."

Being based in multi-cultural London is another advantage for the Department, as a smorgasbord of languages is available to study, right on the campus doorstep.

"There's a rich linguistic diversity among student and staff at Queen Mary and the surrounding East End. Recently when I asked a class of 50 undergraduates what languages they, their family or their best friend spoke natively – we identified 88 languages alone."

Jenny Cheshire, Professor of Linguistics, for example, leads a project that specifically looks at emerging English dialects in London. Together with David Adger, she recently wrote a paper on English language change among children in Hackney. They are, Professor Cheshire says, brought up in a multi-lingual environment which has "influenced a new and intriguing dialect".

Researchers also study dialects much further afield. One PhD student, for instance, has been examining Northern Italian dialects focusing on a little town in Liguria, and what happens to the grammar when standard Italian has been imposed and the older dialect is dying out.

"It's an issue for dialects and languages," admits Professor Adger. At the moment there are about 6,000 languages spoken worldwide, but I suspect we will lose probably 5,500 in the next century or two as a result of globalisation."

"I have just finished a research project on Kiowa, which is a Native American language just on the edge of extinction. When we started out it was spoken by about 40 people and by the time we had finished it was spoken by about 28.

"When this happens, communities lose an important aspect of their culture and their intellectual wealth, which has financial

implications. As George Steiner once said, "When a language dies, a way of understanding the world dies with it."

"Everything we do is immersed in language: communicating; thinking and reasoning; creating social relations; passing on the thoughts, ideas and discoveries to future generations, and yet we do it without thinking, and because of this it sometimes escapes our attention that it is important," notes Professor Adger.

So linguistics is pivotal to our understanding of language and, more broadly, the human condition, but what are the routes into the discipline for students?

For those who do want to specialise in such areas as speech therapy, or forensic linguistics – analysing speech and handwriting for use as evidence in legal proceedings – an undergraduate degree and a Masters with a large component of linguistics is required.

This autumn sees the launch of an "innovative and unique" Masters in Linguistics that will "pull the socio-linguistic and the theoretical courses explicitly together". Graduates can specialise, but they will have a chance to see what is going on in the other domain of linguistics, learning the methodological or theoretical aspects from that side.

The 15-place Masters will have a research practicum, with students attached to funded research projects in the department so they actually "get hands on experience of doing real postgraduate research", but carefully organised at Masters' level.

Students will also have access to prestigious work placements in organisations such as the BBC pronunciation unit – where new lecturer Ester de Leeuw previously worked – assisting on research projects that take their study beyond the lab.

"The Masters is designed so that you can do a PhD afterwards, but not everyone will, so we want people to be able to see what things they can do beyond academia with the qualifications and skills they have gained."

Linguistics, just like language, is evolving and it is an exciting time to be involved in the discipline at Queen Mary. "It could be at the same stage as eighteenth-century chemistry; we haven't got a periodic table yet, but we are making discoveries, and unifying them in various theoretical ways. I think we have only begun to scratch the surface," says Professor Adger. ■



Appointments, promotions and prizes

Whitehall historian joins House of Lords



PROFESSOR PETER HENNESSY

Professor Peter Hennessy, a leading authority on contemporary British history at Queen Mary has been elevated to the House

of Lords as a non-political peer.

Ennobled as Baron Hennessy of Nympsfield on 25 November 2010, he now sits in the House of Lords as a cross-bencher.

"I'm terribly pleased and honoured," says Professor the Lord Hennessy. "I hope to help the House of Lords a bit on constitutional matters. I'll certainly give it my best shot." He made his maiden speech on 3 December in the second reading of the Lord Reform Bill – a debate on the principals of the Bill.

Before joining the School of History in 1992, Peter Hennessy spent 20 years as a national journalist. He is author of several acclaimed books including *The Secret State* and *Having It So Good: Britain in the Fifties*, which won the Orwell Prize for political writing in 2007.

Professor the Lord Hennessy co-founded the Institute of Contemporary British History in 1986; and later the Mile End Group, a postgraduate research hub and forum at Queen Mary. He was presented with the *Times Higher Education* Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.



Rubery lauded for his literary study



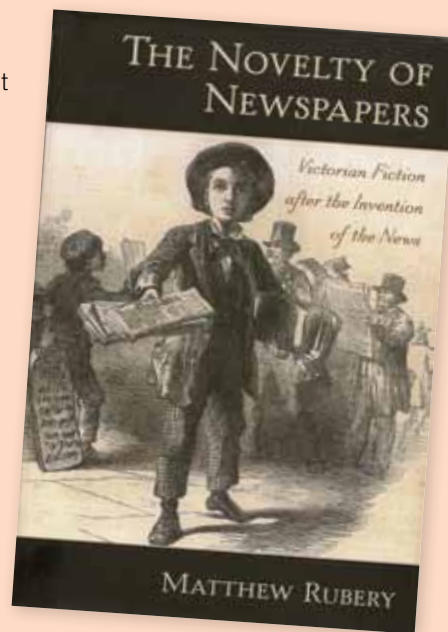
MATT RUBERY

A new book by Matt Rubery, of the Department of English, has scooped the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE)

Award for Junior Scholars 2010.

The Novelty of Newspapers: Victorian Fiction after the Invention of the News (Oxford University Press, 2009), reveals how the commercial press arising in nineteenth-century Britain profoundly influenced Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, and many other English novelists, who all used narrative conventions derived from the press in their best-selling fiction.

Matt Rubery is a lecturer in Victorian Literature, with a special interest in print culture, and reading practices. The ESSE Award is the latest for Rubery,



who has also received the Joseph Conrad Society's Juliet McLaughlan Essay Prize and the Harvard University Howard Mumford Jones Prize.

OBE for Professor Dunkerley



PROFESSOR JAMES DUNKERLEY

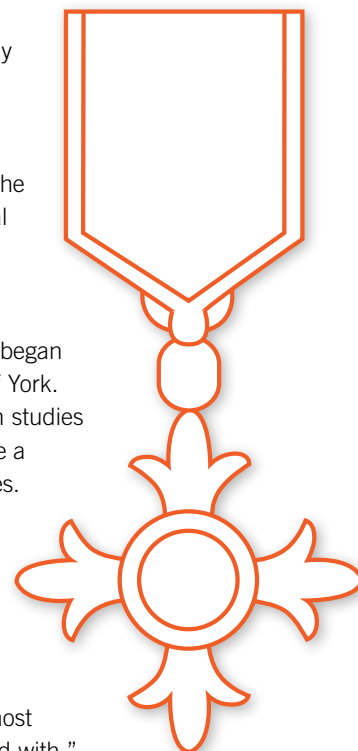
A professor of politics has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to Latin American studies and UK-Latin American relations.

Professor James Dunkerley, of the School of Politics and International Relations, was awarded an Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty, The Queen at Buckingham Palace last summer.

His long-standing interest in Latin American studies began as a modern history undergraduate at the University of York. After completing an MPhil and DPhil in Latin American studies at the University of Oxford, Professor Dunkerley became a Research Fellow at the Institute of Latin American Studies.

With Queen Mary since 1990, Professor Dunkerley was made an Honorary Research Fellow of the Institute for the Study of the Americas in 2008.

"This is a thoroughly well deserved award for one of the world's leading Latin American scholars," says Professor Ray Kiely, Head of the School of Politics and International Relations, "and I might add, one of the most personable and collegial people that I have ever worked with."



British expert to tell story of France



PROFESSOR DONALD SASSOON

Professor Donald Sassoon, from the School of History, has become the only British historian to join a steering committee initiated by President Sarkozy to promote the long history and culture of France.

Professor Sassoon was selected by the French Minister of Culture, Frederic Mitterrand, to take up membership of the prestigious body, the Comite d'Orientation Scientifique.

The 20-strong committee, composed of renowned historians, curators and film makers, will be responsible for overseeing the creation of an online portal of information resources; establishing a network of museums, temporary exhibitions and other events, relations with educational and research organisations, and shaping public policy.



Davis advises on Mandarin's' future



DR JON DAVIS

Dr Jon Davis, of the School of History, has been made a special advisor to the Public Administration Select Committee as it launches an inquiry into the government's

plans to reform Whitehall.

The Committee will examine how the Civil Service may need to adapt and reform in what the Prime Minister has dubbed the 'post-bureaucratic age',

and will devise a framework by which the service can be effectively scrutinised and measured.

Dr Davis, who is Executive Director of the Mile End Group, and lectures on the modern British political history, will provide his expert opinion to the Inquiry's evidence session that will run this year.

Dr Davis is also currently in the process of co-authoring a book with John Rentoul of *The Independent on Sunday*. 'The Rise and Fall of New Labour' (Oxford University Press) will be published in 2012.

Walden on phone-hacking working group



PROFESSOR IAN WALDEN

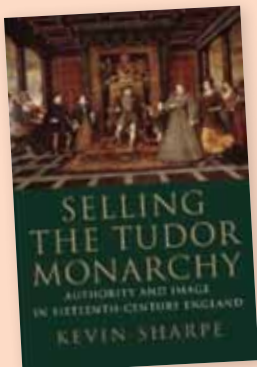
In the wake of allegations that the *News of the World* secretly tapped phone lines, the press watchdog has set up a phone-hacking working

group. Professor Ian Walden, of School of Law, and a lay member of the Press Complaints Commission will be on the board that will 'draw together lessons learned' from a new police investigation and lawsuits against the newspaper over the phone-hacking saga.

Former Cambridgeshire police chief constable Julie Spence, and editorial commissioner, John McLellan, editor of *the Scotsman* will join Ian Walden, professor of information and communications law, to make their recommendations to the PCC. ■

First American art award for British historian

The History of British Art Prize has been awarded to Professor Kevin Sharpe, of the School of English and



Drama, for his book, *Selling the Tudor Monarchy: Authority and Image in Sixteenth-Century England* (Yale, 2009).

The prize, bestowed by the American College Art Association, has hitherto only been presented to academic art historians. Past recipients include the Director of Art History at Yale and the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

Selling the Tudor Monarchy is the first volume of Professor Sharpe's trilogy on images of power in England, 1500-1700. The second, *Image Wars: Promoting Kings and Commonwealth in England* was published by Yale in 2010, and the third instalment has just been submitted.



In the news

Photography and nature's frame



Professor Parvati Nair, from the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, writes in the *Guardian* that nature photography helps society to understand about sustainability and environmental awareness. "The photographic frame can reveal the unsettling ability to extend and include us in its space," Nair suggested. "Photography is inclusive in its mediatory role. It extends covenants... Photographs lead us to rethink, to realign the frame of our understanding."

Vanessa Feltz Show

Professor Jane Wills, of the School of Geography, was interviewed by *BBC London* about Government plans to reduce social housing by 50 per cent. "Council housing has been in crisis for a long time now," noted Professor Wills. "We need to rethink housing and take David Cameron at his word. He talks about the 'Big Society' so now is the time for people power around housing. With community land trusts, the land is held collectively but individuals can buy the properties. They sell their property back to the trust and that is really affordable housing, long term."

Northern Ireland tense as marching season begins

As tension grows among Protestant and Catholic communities, people are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the Irish peace process. Speaking to *CNN*, Dr Martyn Frampton, of the School of History, said: "It's become clear now that more and more previously quiescent republican areas appear now to be experiencing some level of dissident momentum. All the areas that you'd

have previously thought of as Provisional republican heartlands really now appear to be under the sway of the dissidents."

Brewing trouble for the future

The *London Evening Standard's* financial columnist Anthony Hamilton praised Professor Stefano Harney, from the School of Business and Management, for his views on bankers' bonuses. Harney, he writes, "has a talent for noticing things investment bankers would rather were not noticed", after the academic pointed out that Goldman Sachs helped Greece to hide its sovereign debt.

France and the UK take aim at digital pirates

In April, Britain and France joined South Korea and Taiwan as the only nations in the world to tackle illegal downloading through a government-mandated system of warnings and penalties. In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Professor Uma Suthersanen, of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, said the new laws put unprecedented pressure on Internet-service providers by forcing them to help warn users and, in some cases, curtail access. "It is the first time that they are being held responsible for a relationship that used to be between the consumer and the publisher," she adds.



Origins of spin uncovered

Speaking to *BBC News* online, Professor Kevin Sharpe, of the School of English and Drama, discussed the subject of his inaugural lecture, which examined how British kings and queens of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries used their image to display authority. "Some rulers," he explained, "used the media to their advantage, stage managing their public image in a bid to strengthen royal authority, but just as today there were inherent risks to courting publicity."

Where have all the women politicians gone

Dr Rainbow Murray, from the School of Politics and International Relations, wrote a letter to the editor of *The Times* expressing her disappointment at the "extreme shortage" of women in the Cabinet. She criticised the three political parties for their "marginalisation" of women during the election campaign and during the coalition negotiations. She was later interviewed by *BBC London* to discuss why there were so few women in the Tory-Lib Dem coalition government.

Language crisis is threatening a generation of state school pupils



A looming crisis in language teaching could result in a generation of state school children being left monolingual. Experts say efforts to entice children into choosing to study languages by switching from compulsory GCSEs to primary school classes have failed. "For foreign languages not to be obligatory is uniquely British," commented Dr Sylvia Jaworska, of the School of Languages Linguistics and Film, in *The Times*. "Every secondary school in Europe ensures that pupils study at least one foreign language up to 18-years-old. Worryingly, some secondary schools don't push students to take them, because they think it might affect their league table results."

East End bucks UK ageing population trend

Tower Hamlets is bucking the ageing population trend, with only 6.5 per cent in the area over 65. Dr Anne Kershen, of the School of Politics and International Relations, comments in the *East London Advertiser*: "One of the main reasons the statistics are



skewed in this direction is because of the large number of Bangladeshi families living in the East End. These families tend to be larger and younger than the UK-based families so this causes a distortion in the figures.”

Charity workers back ethical pensions

Research funded by the Pensions Trust, led by Dr Bernadette Kamleitner, of School of Business and Management, has revealed that over 70 per cent of charity workers believe ethical investment from their pension pots is vital. The size of the pension pot was also significant, although the study found younger members and women were largely concerned with socially responsible businesses. In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Dr Kamleitner, said: “We were interested in which factors people take into account and what their views on ethical investment were. We were positively surprised by the extent of interest uncovered.”

Drama queens who are still stealing the show

Impressionist Rory Bremner says politicians are entering the “land of the bland” and are becoming trickier to mimic. Professor Peter Hennessy, from the School of History, was cautious of the media-friendly MPs, saying to *The Independent*: “Can you imagine Churchill being the press officer to a TV company? Attlee had all the charisma of a gerbil. We’re ruling out a large number of very gifted people from ever being Prime Minister again.”

Lawless Israel?

In the *Washington Post*, Professor Eric Heinze, from the Department of Law, discussed international law and the world’s perception of Israel through the media lens. “Compared to a generation ago, political events are more intricately tied to legal norms. Despite the crucial importance of human rights throughout all corners of the globe, even the largest media outlets still lack reporters knowledgeable about human rights within a context of formal legal training,” Heinze argued.

US troops killed 680 civilians at checkpoints

Leaked classified files reveal that US troops shot dead 681 innocent civilians in Iraq at various security checkpoints. They were ordered to fire at cars that did not stop, which has led to six times more civilians being shot than insurgents. “There was almost a cavalier use of force against Iraqi civilians,” noted Dr Toby Dodge, from the School of Politics and International Relations, in *The Sunday Times*.



U-turn on budget cuts will dog the deputy prime minister in days to come

In *The Observer*, Dr Jon Davis, of the School of History, commented on the Treasury and how it seems to be regaining some confidence. He also reflects on its “reputation for brutality” under the coalition government, and says that Nick Clegg will be continually put under the spotlight. “How fascinating to ponder if Clegg’s volte-face will be the real reason the current voting system is reformed in future years. And one wonders what more the next 100 days have in store,” he said.

Do you speak ‘propa’?

Dr Esther de Leeuw, from the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, appeared on *Channel 4 News* to discuss how pronunciations and accents are evolving in the British language. She said: “Depending on the group you are in you might consider one pronunciation to be better than the other, so for some people there are right ways to pronounce things. It depends on where you come from or which kind of group in society you think you belong to.”



Why recessions aren’t all about job losses

Professor Pedro Martins, from the School of Business and Management, was on a research team that investigated how wages differ in boom and bust periods with companies continually recruiting. In an article in the *Financial Times*, he said that wages do fall during recessions and that as unemployment falls by one percent, wages drop by 1.8 per cent.

In South Africa’s orphanages, is doing good really bad?



A combination of volunteering and travelling is a rapidly growing industry around the world and one of the most popular choices is orphanage work in Asia and Africa. Researchers argue that in South Africa, volunteers are not helping children, but are instead harming them. Amy Norman, of the School of Geography, commented on those helping children with HIV and AIDS in orphanages with a high turnover. To *National Public Radio* Norman said: “You’ve got tourists that are coming as sort of the third wave of this abandonment. Children are left behind to remember a series of these foreigners who come in and then leave them there.”

De Gaulle radio appeal ‘act of faith’

French President Nicolas Sarkozy visited London in June for celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle’s BBC radio appeal made to Nazi-occupied France. Professor Julian Jackson, of the School of History, an expert on de Gaulle and war-time France was interviewed by BBC Radio Four’s *Today Programme* on why this act was so significant to the war effort. ■

Recent research grants

Dr Nicholas Ridout

School of English and Drama
Fellowship in the Creative and
Performing Arts
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£268,096 01/09/2010 (36 months)



Professor Maria Delgado

School of English and Drama
Research Leave: Mapping a
Nation-State's Theatrical Culture
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£47,464 1/09/10 (4 months)

Professor Jane Wills

School of Geography
Costs and Benefits of a London Living Wage
The City Parochial Foundation
£70,015 01/01/2010 (24 months)

Dr Paul Elbourne

School of Languages, Linguistics and Film
Research Fellowship
The Leverhulme Trust
£44,110 01/09/2010 (11 months)

Dr Adam Fagan

School of Politics and International
Relations
Research Fellowship
The Leverhulme Trust
£84,794 01/09/2010 (9 months)

Professor Virginia Davis

School of English and Drama
2010 BGP RPM Students
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£29,912 01/10/2010 (12 months)



Professor Evelyn Welch

School of English and Drama
Fashioning the Early Modern
HERA JRP Handling Agency
£301,143 01/06/2010 (36 months)

Professor Ian Walden

School of Law
Open Source Licensing
and Business Models
Microsoft Corporation
£46,820 01/07/2010 (6 months)

Professor Maria Delgado

School of English and Drama
CDA: Cultural Branding
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£40,978 01/10/2010 (24 months)

Professor Alison Blunt

School of Geography
CDA: The Child in the World
Arts and Humanities Research
Council
£181,832 01/10/2010 (60 months)



Professor Paul Heritage

School of English and Drama
CDA: Training UK Cultural Warriors
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£61,050 01/10/2010 (36 months)

Professor Julia Boffey

School of English and Drama
Senior Research Fellowship
The British Academy
£46,483 01/01/2011 (12 months)

Dr Matthew Taunton

School of English and Drama
Early Career Fellowship
The Leverhulme Trust
£66,846 01/09/2010 (36 months)

Dr Bridget Escolme

School of English and Drama
CDA: Cultures of Spectatorship
Arts and Humanities Research
Council
£61,050 01/10/2010 (36 months)



Carrie Griffin

School of English and Drama
CARA Postdoctoral Mobility
Fellowship 2010/11
Irish Research Council for the
Humanities & Social Sciences
£58,627 01/10/2010 (12 months)

Professor Evelyn Welch

School of English and Drama
Collaborative Doctoral Award 2010
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£40,978 01/10/2010 (24 months)



Professor Jenny Cheshire

School of Languages, Linguistics and Film

Multicultural London English/
Multicultural Paris French
Economic and Social

Research Council
£223,307 01/10/2010 (48 months)

Dr Santanu Das

School of English and Drama
Philip Leverhulme Prize

The Leverhulme Trust
£70,000 01/09/2010 (24 months)

Daniel Matlin

School of History
Early Career Fellowship

The Leverhulme Trust
£44,471 01/09/2010 (24 months)

Professor Colin Jones

School of History
History of Medicine Research
Fellowship

Wellcome Trust
£108,534 01/09/2010 (27 months)



Professor Virginia Davis

School of History
Research Fellowship
Wellcome Trust
£709,199 01/10/2010 (60 months)

Dr Thomas Dixon

School of History
Wellcome Prize Studentship
Wellcome Trust
£91,369 20/09/2010 (36 months)

Dr Rhodri Hayward

School of History
Wellcome Prize Studentship
Wellcome Trust
£85,445 01/10/2010 (36 months)

Dr Peter Catterall

School of History
DeIPHE-Iraq Funding Grant
Agreement
British Council
£85,150 10/09/2010 (18 months)



Dr Thomas Dixon

School of History
History of Medicine Masters
Wellcome Trust
£25,197 01/10/2010 (12 months)

Professor Kate Malleon

School of Law
Research Networking Scheme
Arts and Humanities Research Council
£32,744 01/09/2010 (24 months)

Dr Lisa Belyea

School of Geography
Doctoral Training Grant 2010
Natural Environment Research
Council
£78,145 01/10/2010 (48 months)



Dr Charles Drazin

School of Languages,
Linguistics and Film
Research Fellowship
The Leverhulme Trust
£15,494 01/01/2011 (4 months)

Professor Jenny Cheshire

School of Languages,
Linguistics and Film
From Sociolinguistic Research
to English Language Teaching
Economic and Social
Research Council
£114,020 01/01/2011 (12 months) ■



Humanities and Social Sciences events

Recent Events



Festival reveals why Shakespeare is German

Queen Mary is currently collaborating with the Globe Theatre and the Goethe-Institut London on a season of events celebrating Germany's great love of Shakespeare.

Professor Rüdiger Görner, Head of the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film is among the leading German and Shakespeare scholars to contribute throughout the festival, offering their perspectives on German responses to Shakespeare.

"It might surprise people to know that more Shakespeare plays are performed on German stages than in the Bard's home of England. His work has been translated and popularised by many German literary giants of the past 400 years, from Goethe to Nietzsche," explains Professor Görner.

"Since the mid-18th century, Shakespeare has been instrumental in the formation of Germany's cultural identity and has remained a catalyst of unprecedented experiments on paper, stage and screen."

The Shakespeare is German Festival runs until March 2011. For ticket information visit www.shakespeares-globe.org

From Westminster to the East End

Mandarins past and present joined their one-time political masters – David Miliband, Nigel Lawson and David Owen – and current students to hear 93-year-old Denis Healey talk about his time as chancellor, in the first Mile End Group event of 2011.

Elder statesman Douglas Hurd was also convinced to talk candidly only days later and Lord Hennessy, who established the Group, the following week.

The Mile End Group is, reported the

Parliamentary Act lecture series

The Speaker of the Commons delivered the first in a new series of lectures to mark the centenary of the 1911 Parliamentary Act, organised by the School of Politics and International Relations and the Mile End Group.

Speaking at Portcullis House, John Bercow MP shared his thoughts on the importance of the Act in establishing the primacy of the House of Commons as a legislative body.

"The lectures offer a useful

opportunity for reflection on what lessons can be learnt on the future of parliamentary reform," explained series organiser, Professor Judith Bara, "particularly in light of the proposed referendum on our voting system."

There will be three further lectures in 2011, with speakers Lord Hurd; Baroness Hayman and Dr Tony Wright, a former politician instrumental in guiding efforts to reform parliamentary procedures following the expenses scandal of 2009.

David Harvey delivers annual lecture



PROFESSOR
DAVID HARVEY

Leading social theorist and geographer Professor David Harvey delivered the 7th Annual David M. Smith Lecture to a packed house at the College in November.

Marxist author of *The Enigma of Capital*, Professor Harvey is Distinguished Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) and the Director of The Center for Place, Culture and Politics.

He is among the top 20 most cited authors in the humanities, and the world's most cited academic geographer. The podcast of his speech is available from www.geog.qmul.ac.uk.

Events 2011

The Nicolai Rubinstein Lecture in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History

10 March 2011

Professor Lorraine Daston
Max Planck Institute for the
History of Science
School of History

Olympic Lecture Series 'The 1972 Munich Olympics; Overcoming the German Past'

15 March 2011

Professor Christopher Young

Butterworth Lecture on Law and Society

16 March 2011

Rabinder Singh QC, School of Law

Unveiling of the Clement Attlee Statue

4 April 2011

Lecture by Lord Mandelson and Professor the Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield

Annual Conference of the Association of German Studies for Great Britain and Ireland

13-15 April 2011

School of Languages, Linguistics and Film

For more information on other future events at Queen Mary, visit: www.qmul.ac.uk/events or email: events@qmul.ac.uk ■



Guardian, "an outgrowth of Queen Mary, where Professor Peter Hennessy mixes high constitutional theory with low gossip to reveal how Britain is really run".