

## College of Humanities



## Humanities PGR Newsletter - February 2014

### In this issue

[Student Awards](#)  
[Humanities PGR Conference](#)  
[Open Access Training](#)  
[PGR desks in Research Commons](#)  
[Researcher Development News](#)  
[Departmental Research Seminars](#)  
[Annual Research Student Monitoring Exercise 2013/4](#)  
[PGR Poster Competition 2014](#)  
[PGR Reading Groups](#)  
[Awarded PhDs](#)  
[Higher Education News Round up](#)

### Dates for your diary

[PGR Coffee morning and College Liaison Forum \(Exeter\) - Monday 24th February at 10:30, Queen's SCR](#)

[College Liaison Forum \(Cornwall\) - Tuesday 18th March at 11am, Peter Lanyon Seminar 3](#)

### Student Awards

The Researcher Development Team is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Researcher Led

Initiative Competition.

Temilola Alanamu (HUMS – Exeter) Gender research at the University of Exeter: A one-day cross Disciplinary workshop (Academic Career Development) £500

James Bernthal (HUMS – Exeter) Agatha Christie: Crime, Culture, Celebrity (Professional development of researchers in the Humanities and/or Social Sciences) £500

Sarah Foxen and Mia Dormer (HUMS – Exeter) on behalf of the 2014 Humanities PGR Conference Committee A conference programme/ legacy brochure and networking event for the 2014 Humanities PGR Conference: Shifting Boundaries (Academic Career Development)

Jonathan Memel (HUMS- Exeter) with Sarah Foxen (HUMS) "Doing it In Public!" Workshops on Engaging your PhD Research Beyond the University (Academic Career Development) £500

Nora Williams, Callan Davies and Anna-Marie Linnell have been successful in getting a Catalyst Seed Fund grant for a public engagement project. The project is designed to recover and restage some of Exeter's performance history by working with local amateur dramatic groups.

Jonathan Memel and Sarah Foxen were also successful with being awarded a Catalyst Seed Fund grant to add to their Researcher Led Initiative Award for their forthcoming workshops.

The Graduate School team would also like to congratulate all of the above.

If you are thinking of organising a conference or symposium, you can now apply to the [Annual Fund](#) at any point in the year.

[Back to top](#)

## Humanities PGR Conference

Thank you to everyone who has submitted an abstract for the conference in April, further details will be released shortly. Don't forget you can still contribute to the [Exhibition](#) and be in with a chance of winning £100.

[Back to top](#)

## Open Access Training

Open Access will be running a session for all Humanities PGR students on Thursday 8th May at 10.30 am. If you are interested in attending, please email Cathryn at the [Humanities Graduate School](#)

[Back to top](#)

## PGR desks in Research Commons

At the start of the academic year we introduced some bookable PGR study desks and lockers in the Research Commons Reading Room. These have proved so popular that we have increased their number from 17 to 36 desks. Here is a reminder of the facility:

**Who are they for?** They are for postgraduate researchers (PGRs) from any College.

**What are they?** These are large desks with associated lockers. They have recently been expanded from 17 desks to 36 desks.

**Where are they?** The desks and lockers are in the Main Reading Room of Research Commons (Old Library building). This is a silent study area.

**When are they available?** During Research Commons opening hours.

**How do PGRs book them?** Book online in advance (ie at least the day **before**).

<https://roombookings.exeter.ac.uk/pgr2013wrb>

**How long can a PGR student book a desk for?** A desk can be booked for 1 day or for up to 5 consecutive days.

**How does a PGR student get a locker key?** The locker keys are available from the Research Commons Reception Desk and are issued on Millenium, (to match the booking on the desk).

**Can other people use these desks?** If the desks are not booked anyone can use them (but not the lockers). We also have other quiet study spaces available in Research Commons on the lower floors of the library.

Any questions? Please contact library staff at the Research Commons Reception Desk (01392 724052) or email [oldlib@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:oldlib@exeter.ac.uk)

[Back to top](#)

## Researcher Development News

Researcher Development at Exeter provides postgraduate research students with personal and professional development to enhance your research and your employability, in academia or beyond. We can help you through [workshops](#), [courses](#), [careers guidance](#) and funding to help you design your own development programmes.

**1-2-1 CAREERS APPOINTMENTS** Postgraduate Research Students are able to book 1-2-1 Careers Appointments with Julia Wilkinson, Researcher Development Careers Consultant. Julia's appointments are usually scheduled on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Appointments can be conducted face-to-face in the Career Zone in the Forum on the Streatham Campus or by telephone. You will need to ensure that you have access to a computer with internet access during your appointment if you book a telephone appointment. If you are unable to book a face-to-face or telephone appointment with Julia, you can book an appointment with one of the other general Careers Consultants in Exeter.

To book a careers appointment with the Researcher Development Careers Consultant or a general Careers Consultant in Exeter: Telephone the Career Zone on 01392 724493, ask a question through My Career Zone leaving a contact phone number or call into the Forum between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

[Back to top](#)

## Departmental Research Seminars

Details of what research seminars are happening within each discipline can be found below:

[Archaeology](#)

[Classics](#)

[Drama](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[Modern Languages](#)

[Theology](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Annual Research Student Monitoring Exercise 2013/4

The Annual Research Student Monitoring Exercise is an important process in ensuring that all students receive appropriate and timely support and feedback on their progress in their doctoral studies. The exercise will be launched on Monday 3rd March and the deadline for completed forms will be Tuesday 1st April. An email will be sent shortly to provide further details. Please remember, completion of the form is a compulsory exercise. Full details can be found in the [PGR student handbook](#).

[Back to top](#)

## PGR Poster Competition 2014

**1) Postgraduate Research Showcase 2014 – University-Wide PGR Poster Competition.** The postgraduate research showcase is an annual poster competition that offers postgraduate researchers the chance to demonstrate the value of their research.

The competition is jointly organised by Researcher Development and Research and Knowledge Transfer. The competition is open to ALL University of Exeter Postgraduate Research students This year £750 of prizes are available across three categories:

1. Best poster - humanities and social sciences (HASS)
2. Best poster - science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
3. Most innovative poster

**Deadline for completed application forms: Friday 14th March**

Posters to displayed in the Forum Street 28th – 30th April and the winning posters will be announced at 2pm on 30th April

For full details about the Postgraduate Research Showcase competition and how to enter see:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/events/postgraduateresearchshowcase2014/>

2) '**Celebrating Research in Cornwall**' – Postgraduate Research Student Cornwall Conference 2014 - Friday 21st March 2014

The purpose is to bring postgraduate researchers in Cornwall from all disciplines together to network and share their research interests.

This event is organised by current Postgraduate Research students and the Researcher Development Programme Developer and Coordinator (Dr Tom Richardson) in Cornwall.

The conference is open to all Postgraduate Research students on the Truro and Penryn campuses.

Registration for this event is free and all University of Exeter Postgraduate Research Students in Penryn and Truro are encouraged to attend in order to participate and/or support presenting peers.

Registration is being conducted through Survey Monkey and the link can be found via the Conference Advert on My Career Zone

Current Postgraduate Research Students are invited to submit an abstract for a 10 minute oral presentation or poster session, that addresses one of the following themes:

- Research Methods (How are you conducting your research?)
- Cornwall (Is your research directly related to Cornwall?)
- Impact (Why is your research important?)
- Interdisciplinary Research (How does your research impact other disciplines or use multidisciplinary approaches?)

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: Monday 3rd March 2013**

**Conference Date: Friday 21st March 2014**

For full details about the Postgraduate Research Student Cornwall Conference and how to register and submit abstracts see: <http://as.exeter.ac.uk/rdp/postgraduateresearchers/pgr-cornwall/pgrcornwallconference2014/>

[Back to top](#)

## PGR Reading Groups

New Reading Group

The work of David Foster Wallace has attracted increasing critical attention in recent years, for its powerful treatment of contemporary culture, its stylistic uniqueness and often darkly comic tone. DFW has been categorised as one of the first sustained 'post-post-modern' writers, reaching for sincerity by ironising irony, by embracing the brutality and narcissism of human consciousness.

We are now running a fortnightly reading group, open to all, to discuss his work, concentrating initially on short stories and articles.

Meetings are every second Monday, 13.00 – 15.00 in Peter Chalk 2.4, starting Monday 24th February. For details of reading for each session or further info, please contact Mike Rose-Steel: [mdr209@ex.ac.uk](mailto:mdr209@ex.ac.uk).

Details of more reading groups can be found on the [Intranet](#).

[Back to top](#)

## Awarded PhDs

Congratulations to the following, who were awarded their PhDs during January 2014

Fiona Fleming - Archaeology

Jens Peters - Drama

Yennan Lin - Film

John Slevin - History

Helena Borrell Carreras - Modern Languages

Sean Willis - Theology

[Back to top](#)

## Higher Education News Round up

**THE Best University Workplace Survey:** the results. Academics love what they do but hate the way that their profession is changing – right? And professional and support staff are more empowered than ever; in fact, they are running the show – correct? (Times Higher Education - 30 Jan 2014)

**University grade inflation disputed.** The rise in university degree grades - in which 70% achieved higher than a 2:2 last year - is not caused by grade inflation, claim researchers. The rise reflects "better prepared" students with better A-level results, says a study from Lancaster University. (BBC Education & Family - 21 Jan 2014)

**Universities making 'unconditional offers' in race for top A-level students.** Top universities are preparing to award places to students irrespective of their final A-level grades amid a scramble to recruit Britain's brightest school leavers, The Telegraph has learnt. (The Telegraph - 25 Dec 2013)

**Fewer young people plan to go to local university.** Students are increasingly likely to want to go to university outside their local area, suggests research tracking the intentions of sixth formers. This contradicts expectations that higher fees would mean more students studying locally to save on rent. (BBC Education & Family - 23 Dec 2014)

**Record numbers of students enter university.** Record numbers of UK students were accepted for full-time university courses this autumn, including more poorer students than ever before, says the Ucas admissions service. (BBC News Education & Family - 19 Dec 2013)

[Back to top](#)

[Visit the College of Humanities website](#)