Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of our Graduate School Bulletin. It seems no time at all since I was introducing the last edition. Since then, a lot has happened.

At the end of the Autumn term, we held our Seasonal Celebration, with the increasingly popular quiz and also a Christmas jumper competition. During the Spring term, we ran our highly regarded Leadership Programme in collaboration with the Henley Business School, and we held our second Fairbrother Lecture. Nadya Ali, who has just completed her PhD in Politics, gave an amazing presentation on ‘Governing Britain’s Muslims: how effective is counter-radicalisation’ to a packed lecture theatre. More recently, we have held our first ‘Keep calm you’re almost there’ afternoon tea, which was attended by doctoral researchers who were writing up. There were also experienced staff on hand, from academic schools, Study Advice and Student Wellbeing, to give advice and encouragement. You can read about these events and others in the pages which follow.

By the time this issue is printed, we will also have hosted our second event for our overseas doctoral researchers who are lecturers / senior lecturers in their home institutions. Around 40 students attended a lecture on the effective use of social media in teaching and learning and maintaining professional networks, followed by discussion and tea with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement. We will also have held our Summer Tea Party, with a no-doubt very popular Graduate School quiz.

Professor Dianne Berry, Dean of Postgraduate Research Studies
**WHAT READING STAFF HAVE ACHIEVED**

**Doctor of Science**

Congratulations to Mathew Almond, Professor of Chemistry Education, who has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) by the University of Reading. This award is in recognition of his published contribution to the advancement of research and learning in Chemistry. Mathew has also been appointed Dean of Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS).

**PhD by Publication**

Helen Bilton, Associate Professor in Institute of Education, has been awarded her PhD by Publication. The PhD is awarded based on published works, and is for academic staff as an alternative route to a traditional PhD by thesis.

Helen reflected on her journey from teacher to doctor: ‘My first lecture when I was training to be a teacher was on something called “the nursery garden”. This was about young children working and learning in an outdoor environment and I became hooked by the potential of this approach to teaching. When I got my first job in London I was lucky to have staff who were like minded and were happy to work outside with me and the children. It naturally happened that I became a teacher-researcher. Years later I was lucky enough to become a university lecturer and completed more formal research. In 1991 I published the first research-based text book on the early years outdoor environment. This was a very successful publication and led to my running in-service training for schools and the early years outdoor environment. This was about young children working and learning outside as I feel it has such potential to enable all children to be successful.’

I feel very honoured and blessed that the PhD by Publication is a recognised route for achieving a doctorate. I also feel very pleased that my concerns about the young child have been acknowledged through this award. I will continue to research about the young child learning outside as I feel it has such potential to enable all children to be successful.’

**FAIRBROTHER LECTURE**

‘GOVERNING BRITAIN’S MUSLIMS: HOW EFFECTIVE IS COUNTER-RADICALISATION?’

Dr Nadya Ali (PhD Researcher, Department of Politics & International Relations)

On Wednesday 11 March, Dr Nadya Ali delivered the annual Graduate School Fairbrother Public Lecture to a packed lecture theatre in the Henley Business School. Nadya’s engaging talk addressed a topical and thought-provoking subject, and was based on her doctoral research into British Governments’ counter-radicalisation policies in the UK over the last ten years.

Nadya provided an insightful overview of the policy changes under successive administrations and how these have manifested in British society and reflected in the media.

Following the 45 minute lecture, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steve Mithen, chaired a Q&A session from the audience. Nadya expertly fielded a range of diverse and challenging questions and the post-lecture reception gave audience members the opportunity to speak to Nadya in more detail about her work.

Nadya undertook both her BA and MA at Reading and her doctoral research was supervised by Dr Andreas Behnke (Dept. Politics & International Relations). She submitted her thesis in autumn 2014, subsequently passing her viva without revisions in January 2015. Nadya has published on topics including counter-radicalisation practices, the female jadah and British mosque reform.

The Fairbrother Lecture was itself established to bring to wider attention the quality and scope of postgraduate research taking place at Reading. Nadya’s talk demonstrates that Reading doctoral researchers are engaged in work that addresses global challenges and issues facing us in the 21st century.

The lecture is named after Jack Fairbrother, who was the University’s first PhD graduate in 1929. Information regarding the 2016 Fairbrother Lecture will be available in the next academic year.
The PhD Researcher of the Year award recognizes and celebrates excellence in postgraduate research at the University of Reading. The four PhD researchers featured here have been selected to represent their Faculty in the competition. Each School is asked to nominate one student for the award and the four Faculty winners/finalists were selected based on the candidate’s ability to meet the following criteria: proven academic excellence; good academic progress and expected to complete on time; proven communication skills and the potential to be successful in their future career. All four finalsts will talk about their research and their experience of studying at Reading at the Doctoral Research Conference on Thursday 18 June 2015. The overall winner of PhD Researcher of the Year 2015 will also be announced at the conference.

**PhD RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR – FINALISTS 2015**

**The PhD Researcher of the Year award recognizes and celebrates excellence in postgraduate research at the University of Reading. The four PhD researchers featured here have been selected to represent their Faculty in the competition. Each School is asked to nominate one student for the award and the four Faculty winners/finalists were selected based on the candidate’s ability to meet the following criteria: proven academic excellence; good academic progress and expected to complete on time; proven communication skills and the potential to be successful in their future career. All four finalsts will talk about their research and their experience of studying at Reading at the Doctoral Research Conference on Thursday 18 June 2015. The overall winner of PhD Researcher of the Year 2015 will also be announced at the conference.**

**www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool/events/gs-phdconference.aspx**

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**Graeme Mariton**

**Faculty of Science**

**Department of Meteorology, School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences**

**Title of PhD:** Comparison of balloon observations of clear-air and in-cloud turbulence with model predictions

*Every year atmospheric turbulence costs the airline industry around $100 million and seriously injures hundreds of passengers worldwide. Most of the costs arise due to compensating passen- gers for injuries when encountering unexpected turbulence, as well as damage to aircraft and post-accident investigations. Patches of strong turbulence can be forecast in advance, but usually with less skill than a standard weather forecast, due to our understanding of the gen- eration mechanisms being incomplete.*

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**Kristina West**

**Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science**

**Department of English, School of Literature and Languages**

**Title of PhD:** ‘The boy eternal’: Locating the child in the literature and criticism of Ralph Waldo Emerson

*My thesis focuses on analyses of childhood in Emerson’s 19th century American Transcendentalist writings. Criticism of his work often focuses on the question: “What is a man?” While Emerson explores this issue through a comparison between manhood and childhood, his question of “What is a child?” has never been considered. I offer an exploration of Emerson’s works that critiques the extant critical assumptions that the child is/has is merely biographical, by instead reading constructions of the dead child, grief and the child as body, child, absence and the archives; and the child as location.*

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**Adeyinka Adewale**

**Henley Business School**

**School of Leadership, Organisations and Behaviour**

**Title of PhD:** The interaction between corporate bureaucracies and individual moral identity in explaining moral behaviour

*How do organisations make ‘good’ people do ‘bad’ things? With rising cases of corpo- rate scandals, there is a greater need to understand how individuals make ethical/ unethical decisions at work. Assumptions that maturity in moral reasoning comes with age and is consistent have been challenged by research: first, senior executives are often at the centre of these scandals; secondly, employees are found to operate at lower levels of morality at work than at home. These findings have led researchers to question the role contexts play in rendering individuals insensitive to their own morality over time. One major contextual feature is bureau- cracy, widely theorised to have the capacity to limit employee morality in various ways but for which we have little empirical evi- dence. This study aims to fill this gap in the literature using a case study research design of six multinational pharmaceuticals studied within a corrupt context in Nigeria.*

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**Rui Catarino**

**Faculty of Life Sciences**

**School of Agriculture, Policy & Development**

**Title of PhD:** Modelling the effect of the introduction of Bt crops on multiple pest population dynamics and economic returns to farmers

*New technical innovations in agriculture, such as the employment of genetically modified (GM) crops, have the potential to influence agro-ecological interactions. The effects may be positive (e.g. higher profits and lower pesticide applications) or nega- tive (e.g. rise of non-susceptible pests and impact on non-target organisms). Pres- ently, no research has been conducted on the ecological dynamics of pests and their economic impact. This research fills this gap in the literature by examining the long-term ecological interactions on which the sus- tainability of GM crops depend. As part of my research I have developed a bioeconomic model that demonstrates the population dynamics of two competing insect species, and the resulting economic impact on conventional and GM maize. The model allows for the assessment of dif- ferent pest management options (such as insecticide applications or the use of bio- logical control – natural enemies) over time.*

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**Guy Carson**

**School of Mathematics and Physical Sciences**

**Department of Meteorology**

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**Sarah Johnson**

**School of Business**

**Department of Accounting and Finance**

**Title of PhD:** The impact of corporate social responsibility (CSR) on firm performance

*The development of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives has gained increasing attention over the past two decades. Despite an extensive literature on CSR, research on the impact of CSR on firm performance is only at its early stages. This study aims to fill this gap in the literature by examining the long-term impact of CSR on firm performance.*

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**Emma Zhang**

**School of Social Sciences**

**Department of Sociology**

**Title of PhD:** The role of social networks in the adoption of innovative agricultural practices

*The adoption of innovative agricultural practices is critical for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability. However, the adoption process is often influenced by social networks. This study aims to fill this gap in the literature by examining the long-term role of social networks in the adoption of innovative agricultural practices.*

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**PhD NEWS**

**PhD Researcher of the Year – Finalists 2015**

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I am the love for you
When you’re feeling sad, I hold you tight
You may not see me, but I’m always true
For now, tomorrow, and for everlong.

I’m all around you, I will keep you strong
I guide you by the hand from the abyss
When something stops you conquering your fears
I pick you up and set you on your way

When you don’t ever want to try again
I know that you can do it come what may
My darling child I am the love for you
When life feels as if no one’s on your side
You may not see me but I’m always true
For now, tomorrow, and for everlong.

Heike Bruton wins Raymond Wilson Poetry Competition

Heike Bruton, a first year doctoral researcher from the Institute of Education, was awarded £200 in prize money and a collection of poems after winning the annual Raymond Wilson Poetry For Children Competition. Heike’s winning poem:

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Features

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NEW ONLINE STATISTICAL METHODS PROGRAMME

Some of the most popular Reading Researcher Development Programme sessions are those on the use and application of statistics in research. To supplement these face-to-face sessions, all doctoral researchers at Reading can now access a suite of online statistical methods training courses, free of charge for the duration of their registration.

The ‘Statistical Methods for Research’ programme has been designed specifically for doctoral researchers as a foundation programme in statistics and is produced by Epigeum, one of the leading providers of online training for colleges and universities.

The online programme is available in five discipline areas: Biomedical Science; Business; Engineering and Technology; Natural Science; Social Science. The programme is compatible with the most commonly used statistical packages and covers key areas such as confidence intervals, hypothesis testing and statistical modelling.

Doctoral researchers can access ‘Statistical Methods for Research’ and other online courses via the Graduate School’s Blackboard site. For more information on the programme, go to: www.reading.ac.uk/gs/Online_skills_training.aspx

TRAVEL BURSARY SCHEME / STUDENT-LED EVENTS SCHEME

So far this academic year, the Graduate School’s Travel Bursary Scheme has awarded funding to 17 doctoral researchers to contribute to the cost of conference travel or research visits. This scheme is highly popular and successful applicants received awards up to £100. The next deadline for applications is 1 December 2015.

The Graduate School also provides funding via the Student-led Events Scheme, to support doctoral researchers who want to organise mini-conferences, seminars and workshops. This year, the fund has supported four applications from doctoral researchers.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME 2015

GRADUATE SCHOOL & HENLEY BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Graduate School & Henley Business School Leadership Programme ‘Making a difference as a leader’ is now in its third year and is proving as popular as ever. In February 2015, 39 doctoral researchers from a range of academic disciplines and professional backgrounds took part in this three-day programme, which aims to improve participants’ understanding of leadership and help them develop their own leadership skills.

Taking place at University’s Greenlands and Whiteknights campuses, the programme also enables researchers to meet with those outside their School and subject area, take a step back from their studies and recognise the skills and abilities they have already gained whilst undertaking their research. As one participant commented this year ‘It was very refreshing. I reflected on things, got new ideas and had fun.’

Details of the next Leadership Programme will be announced in autumn 2015.

GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN

For more information, please contact:

Graduate School
Old Whiteknights House
University of Reading
PO Box 217
Whiteknights
Reading, RG6 6AH
gradschool@reading.ac.uk
www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool