A multidisciplinary event organised and presented by research students at Canterbury Christ Church University.

This year’s theme examines our perceptions and interpretation of the concept of engagement in academic research. What does it mean for research to be engaging, and how do we attain it? Plenary speech by Professor Janet Druker (BA MA PhD Chartered Fellow CIPD), Emeritus Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University.

All Welcome.
The PGRA is delighted to welcome you all to this year’s Conference:

‘Engaging Research: Considerations of context’

Following the successful conference of 2014 on the topic of originality in research, this year’s theme explores the concept of engagement in research. With more and more research being asked to engage outside of academia, be it through impact, output, or the process of research itself, we invite speakers to consider what engagement means to them, what it means for research to be engaging, and how we manage it. The conference is a multi-disciplinary event, and we hope that the day will provide a platform to encourage cross-disciplinary discussion.

We are very pleased to welcome Professor Janet Druker, Emeritus Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University, as our plenary speaker. Professor Druker possesses extensive experience of research and knowledge transfer, and an interest in the contribution that universities can make to ‘real world’ issues. We are certain that her talk will provide an excellent starting point for the day, and we would like to thank her for her participation in this year’s conference.

The programme this year lists the panel information and a short abstract for each speaker. At the end of the programme you will find further information regarding our speakers academic profiles, as well as the full abstracts submitted for consideration. We would like to thank all our speakers for taking the time to submit to the call for papers, and we greatly look forward to your presentations.

We would like to thank the team at the Graduate School for all of their assistance, in particular Professor Adrian Holliday, Dr Darren Ambrose, and Ms Julia Gavriel. Our thanks also go to the PGRA membership for their input into the development of the themes for the conference, and for their help on the day, especially from the panel chairs.

We hope very much that you will enjoy the day, and that we get the chance to talk to as many of you as possible.

Emma Pole, Aderonke Folorunsho & Nicole Holt

PGRA Representatives 2015
Timings for the Day:

09:00 Lg16 Welcome desk opens

09:30 Lg16 Coffee & networking

10:00 Lg16 Opening welcome by Keith McLay, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Canterbury Christ Church University.

10:10 Lg16 Plenary speech by Professor Janet Druker (BA MA PhD Chartered Fellow CIPD), University of Westminster and Emeritus Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University.

11:00-12:45 Newton Nf06, Nf09, Ns06/07, Ns 03/04 Morning panel sessions.

13:00-13:45 Lg45 Networking opportunities, light lunch.

14:00-15:45 Newton Nf09, Ns06/07, Ns03/04 Afternoon panel sessions.

16:00-16.30 Ns 03/04 Discussion and closing comments from the Graduate School and PGRA representatives.
Morning panels from 11:00 to 12:45

Panel 1 Nf06 Chaired by Nicole Holt

Clare Andrews (CCCU) – EdD, Christian Education; Identity and boundaries: Reflections on researcher positionality

The presentation considers the importance of ‘core-identities’ and the influence that these may have on researcher positionality and the way in which multiple roles and identities can be integrated. While it hasn’t given the answers to the questions asked at the start, it provides a new set of tools and concepts with which to work.

Trevor Gerhardt (CCCU) – Education/Theology; An On-going Discussion: Clerical Professionalism

In the 19th century, Church of England clergy were named as one of the first professions alongside lawyers and physicians. Today, although 26 bishops sit in the House of Lords, many clergy and those in society no longer view clergy as professionals alongside lawyers and physicians. Situated in 21st century England, this research aims to engage with this new context by analysing the role of Church of England clergy and what training is appropriate in preparing them to inhabit that role.

Caroline Thomas (CCCU) – Education; The relationship between ethos creation, context and student perceptions of their educational experience in a Christian academy

In setting up new academies, head teachers and senior leaders engage with a complexity of environmental factors when making strategic decisions about vision, ethos and the practices required to transform the vision into reality. This presentation explores the relationship between the research context, the ethos created by academy leaders in a new Christian academy and the student perceptions of their educational experience.
Panel 2 Nf09 Chaired by Nick Furze

Jan Hodges (University of Chichester) – History of Art; Beyond the Pink Facade: the story of the discovery of an archive containing layers of time and meaning - an intellectual and artistic archaeological site.

This paper focuses on the chance discovery of an archive of father and daughter artist/educationists H. Clarence Whaite (1895-1978) and his daughter Gillian (1934-2012) that was destined for destruction and my subsequent objective to present it to a wider public. In order to raise the profile of my subject, it has been necessary to create opportunities to engage with diverse publics, shape ideas through dialogue and thus enable me to look for connections that examining the archive alone would not provide.

Steven Horne (CCCU) - Theology; Traveller Theology: An Introduction.

Exploring identity from within a position of social suspicion through a developing theological framework, Traveller theology enables a persecuted and ostracised community to begin to form their own cultural and spiritual identity. Such a project is of course not without its challenges, particularly in engaging the communities themselves; issues of trust, contention and misunderstanding create a dichotomous situation of secrecy and proud tradition.

Laurie Simpson (CCCU) - Education; Research in context: the continued story of a developing autoethnographical researcher.

Utilising an autoethnographical stance, this researcher explores how the application of creative practices in recording individuals’ salient life-career moments can help them to recognise the feelings, thoughts and emotions experienced within those moments. A tentative discussion is offered to describe study outcomes to date, the emergence of a model for practice and how this could be a useful addition to the guidance counsellor’s tool box.
Panel 3 Ns06/07 Chaired by Joe Baxter-Webb

Md Ismil Hossain (University of Bolton) – Human Resource Management; *Examining the impact of institutional environments on HRM practices in developed and developing countries: The case of UK and Bangladesh.*

This study interrogates how country institutional environments differently determine HRM practices of MNCs from developed countries operating in developing countries, as well as MNCs from developing countries operating in developed countries. The aim is to provide a better, more complete understanding of the relationship between institutional environments and HRM practices of MNCs.

Raymond Mutumhe (CCCU) – Business School; *Does corporate governance have impact on IPOs returns?*

AIM is the London Exchange extension that deals with only minor and growing companies. This study aims at examining the impact of corporate governance on IPOs under-pricing returns before, during and after the financial crisis of 2008 on firms that trade on AIM.

Roshan Nimantha Panditharathna (University of Bolton) – Business School; *Consumer behaviour on Green products in London Borough of Ealing.*

Consumers are now increasingly concerned on environmental issues as never before. As a result, green marketing concepts have widely become popular all over the world. This study engages with consumer behaviour based on green products with key demographic characteristics. Objectives of the study were to identify the present level of consumer awareness on green products in London borough of Ealing and evaluate consumers’ demographics factors affecting on demand of the green products.
Panel 4 Ns03/04 Chaired by Simon Bransden

Deanna Demetriou (CCCU) – Applied Linguistics; Engaging with the difficulties of ‘discourse’.

‘Discourse’ as a concept, notion or analytic tool is used frequently in applied linguistics and other social sciences; however, it is often left undefined. This presentation seeks to engage with the difficulties of understanding and working with ‘discourse’ and ‘discourse analysis’ as both theory and method. It considers the journey of engaging with discourse analysis from undergraduate to doctoral level in the search for securing a theoretical framework for the analysis of immigration discourses in the UK.

Daniel Giraldo (CCCU) – History; Changing threats but a continuity of debate. A discussion on the techniques of the CIA.

Regarding the covert operations conducted by the CIA in Chile there are a number of broader themes that are not just relevant to historians but the wider community. Given the recent exposé of the CIA’s torture programme of suspected terrorists in Guantanamo, the operations in Chile in the 1970s are a historic reminder that restrictions imposed on the Agency don’t seem to be working in the 21st Century. The debates of the 1970s have returned again – should this body be more stridently overseen and restricted, or are illicit covert operations ultimately worth some moral sacrifice to gain an advantage over the enemies of the West?

Razia Shariff (CCCU) – Politics and International Relations; Making sense by playing with discourse: Situating my research in theoretical and current contexts to make it engaging and meaningful.

This paper explores my research and the different ways it can be presented in different theoretical and current contexts to make it engaging and meaningful and the implications this has on making sense of the research. It examines my use of discourse in situating and positioning my research in these different contexts and how this may limit an understanding of my research potential and possibilities. It concludes by suggesting that the way we make and adapt meaning about our research actually creates the possibilities for how people engage with our research and the impact it can have, but also risks compromising what our research actually is.
Afternoon panels from 14:00 to 15:45

Panel 5 Nf09 Chaired by Luke Ewart

Jo Hook (CCCU) – Early Intervention and Prevention; *What use are non-empirical theories and approaches to recent thinking of Early Intervention?*

This paper seeks to alleviate my concern for the potential ‘use’ of my research to my field of work by arguing that the “what works” stance and associated approaches cannot fully identify the solutions needed to improve outcomes for children and families. In addition, the paper will argue that widening the lens, to look within and outside of the systems that contextualise Early Intervention, may indeed take us further than the “what works” approach can on its own.

Juman Simaan (CCCU) – Health and Wellbeing; *Olive growing as a daily activity under military occupation in Palestine.*

Olive growing is an essential activity for Palestinians who live under military occupation, which enforces land segregation and confiscation, restrictions on travel, colony building, and violence against people and trees. This research describes the daily lives of farmers in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territories, and how the consequences of the military occupation impact on this activity and the health and wellbeing of olive growers. Using Ethnographic methods, information has been gathered from 48 participants during olive harvest and tree planting seasons. Preliminary themes that emerged from the data suggest a link to Occupational Therapy concepts relating to public health and social justice, and to indigenous Palestinian values of cooperation and steadfastness which help in the maintenance of the activity of olive growing despite the barriers posed by the military occupation.

Victoria Stirrup (CCCU) – Health; *Participant not patient – employing a person centred approach to researching the use of lived experience in mental health peer support.*

This paper reflects upon the experience of employing a person-centred approach to research to explore the use of lived experience within mental health peer support. Historically, recovery amongst adults with serious mental health issues has been characterised by an emphasis on professional expertise. The sharing of lived experience of mental distress through peer support relationships is based on mutuality and has been recognised as promoting hope and supporting recovery. Person-centred approaches towards introducing mental health peer support into NHS service provision have prioritised relationships and engagement, in turn contesting the conscious or unconscious reinforcement of the service user as passive patient.
Panel 6 Ns06/07 Chaired by Chrissie D’Costa

Joe Baxter-Webb (CCCU) – Media/Cultural Studies; Social Networking, Knowledge Exchange, and a Culture War: one researcher’s use of Twitter to develop a public identity while engaging with their field.

This paper will give a personal account of the researcher’s use of Twitter over the course of a three-year Ph.D. scholarship. Initially setting out to use Twitter as a means of soliciting research participants for a biographical study, Twitter eventually enabled a much broader range of scholarly activities, becoming the primary venue for the researcher to develop an academic identity.

Annie Deakin (CCCU) – Applied Linguistics; Can you speak bilingualism?

My thesis is a qualitative research on familial bilingualism, which draws on a number of interpretivist approaches. The broad focus of the thesis is to look at how bilingualism subjectively affects the research participants’ family life. I will examine the difficulties I have had to engage with theories from the three different fields of bilingualism, culture and emotion. This has involved a long process of decoding jargon, understanding concepts and keeping up with the progress in the three fields. I will examine the process of redacting the thesis and I will elaborate on how I have tried to reconcile my ideas of style and academic writing.

Nick Furze (CCCU) – Media; The adaption of history in Game of Thrones by its removal from an historical context.

This paper provides an analysis of the Television series Game of Thrones, (Benioff and Weiss, 2011-present), and its creation of an historical aesthetic. It consists of an analysis of how the series engages with European late-medieval history and culture by its removal from an historical context.
Panel 7 Ns03/04 Chaired by Emma Pole

‘Making the link between research and wider society- the impact of Political Science’

In today’s environment much of the research in the field of Applied Social Sciences is required to demonstrate engagement- with other disciplines- but also with the wider social context- through an assessment of the impact of the work. We take this understanding of engagement- the idea that our research- (whilst primarily undertaken to satisfy the requirements of the Ph.D., and driven by personal interest in the topic,) has a wider potential, and try to apply it to each of our projects.

Our panel presenters will discuss their research projects, some of which are in their early stages, some more advanced, and examine the potential impact- and hence engagement, that these will have on wider society.

Asya Kudlenko studies security sector reform (SSR) and its importance for post-conflict transformation. Her research looks into the role of internal and external actors in the security sector and the ways SSR can contribute to improving the security dynamics of regions with a recent legacy of war.

Amina M’lili will discuss her research on the concept of Human Rights in the United States’ foreign policy. She will examine American foreign policy from the end of the Second World War to President George W. Bush’s Presidency with reference to International Relations theories. This research will assess the ambiguities surrounding American foreign policy towards Human Rights.

Asher Pirt’s research is concerned with an evaluation of Vladimir Putin’s leadership in order to reveal a greater understanding of contemporary Russia. The Ukraine crisis has indicated that research into Putin’s leadership is desperately needed. Following an interactionist approach, Asher will outline early results of his research into Putin’s leadership.

Simon Bransden will discuss his research on the understanding of federal political systems in times of crisis. He focuses on the flexibility of these, through the use of formal, but not constitutional, processes of amendment. This research will contribute to a wider understanding of the value of federalism as a tool for conflict management in plural societies.
Clare Andrews (CCCU)

Clare is a lecturer in diagnostic radiography at Canterbury Christ Church University. She is currently undertaking an EdD with a particular focus on Christian Education.

Identity and boundaries: Reflections on researcher positionality – Panel 1

This paper presents reflections on my developing understanding of researcher positionality. When I began my doctoral study I believed that it was possible to remain neutral and fully objective; there was no need for ‘me’ to be involved in my research. As I move into the thesis stage of my EdD I have come to better appreciate that the identities I bring with me necessarily introduce an element of subjectivity, which affects the knowledge produced. In this paper I reflect on my understanding of the multiple roles and identities that I have. I explore the nature of the boundaries between my different identities and how this affects my professional and researcher roles. I consider the importance of ‘core-identities’ and the influence that these may have on how I position myself as researcher and the way in which multiple roles and identities can be integrated. The process of reflecting on these things has allowed me to explore some issues critical to my understanding of my positionality as researcher. While it hasn’t given me the ‘answers’ to the questions that I asked at the start, it has given me a new set of tools and concepts with which I can work towards these.

Joe Baxter-Webb (CCCU)

Media and Cultural Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University (young people, videogames and informal learning)

Social Networking, Knowledge Exchange, and a Culture War: one researcher’s use of Twitter to develop a public identity while engaging with their field. – Panel 6

This paper will give a personal account of the researcher’s use of Twitter over the course of a three-year Ph.D. scholarship. Initially setting out to use Twitter as a means of soliciting research participants for a biographical study, Twitter eventually enabled a much broader range of scholarly activities, becoming the primary venue for the researcher to develop an academic identity.

Contrary to one perspective that “anything not directly related to the post-grad thesis is a waste of time”, Twitter has allowed the researcher to develop writing confidence by disseminating works in progress, to network and maintain contact with other researchers and potential co-authors, and to develop links to local media industries. Twitter visibility has allowed engagement and integration into several communities of practice, both academic and creative. The platform has, as expected, also brought its share of distractions (which also provided opportunities to develop an academic identity). In the summer of 2014, a movement operating under the #GamerGate hashtag began advocating for changes to games journalism, which ostensibly centred on writers’ professionalism (but were dismissed by many opponents as a thinly disguised anti-progressive, anti-feminist coup). Engaging with members of GamerGate had the unexpected effect of encouraging the researcher to think about how the body of feminist games research they had spent years of engaging with was perceived by a hostile gaming public, and also to develop strategies for justifying different methodologies and epistemologies to publics who are only accepting of quantitative, positivist research.
Simon Bransden (CCCU)
Simon is a PhD student in Politics and International Relations at CCCU. His thesis is titled “A comparative study of dynamics in federal political systems in times of crisis”, and is based on three case studies of crisis; in the American, Canadian and EU federal political systems.

Making the link between research and wider society- the impact of Political Science. – Panel 7
Simon Bransden will discuss his research on the understanding of federal political systems in times of crisis. He focuses on the flexibility of these, through the use of formal, but not constitutional, processes of amendment. This research will contribute to a wider understanding of the value of federalism as a tool for conflict management in plural societies.

Annie Deakin (CCCU)
Annie is a lecturer in French at Canterbury Christ Church University and a final year PhD student in Applied Linguistics in the field of familial bilingualism.

Can you speak bilingualism? – Panel 6
My thesis is a qualitative research on familial bilingualism, which draws on a number of interpretivist approaches. The broad focus of the thesis is to look at how bilingualism subjectively affects the research participants’ family life. To find out, I have studied the “lived experiences” of a small sample of bilingual family members whose heritage language was either French or Spanish. In this presentation, I would like to focus on how I have engaged with the literature to research my topic and how I have tried to write the thesis in a style that engages the readers. First, I will examine the difficulties I have had to engage with theories from the three different fields of bilingualism, culture and emotion. This has involved a long process of decoding jargon, understanding concepts and keeping up with the progress in the three fields. It has also involved struggling to stay focused and resist the temptation to get sidetracked by authors in related fields who I have found very engaging. Second, I will examine the process of redacting the thesis. And this has involved getting to learn how to write academically for a PhD. However, there is now a conversation in academic circles about the pitfalls of disciplinary conventions in academic writing (Sword, 2012, Pinker, 2014) and I will elaborate on how I have tried to reconcile my ideas of style and academic writing.

Deanna Demetriou (CCCU)
Deanna is a first year PhD student in Applied Linguistics at Canterbury Christ Church University. Her thesis involves the analysis of immigration discourses in the UK. Her research interests include: intercultural communication, political, media and online discourse analysis, representation of the ‘other’, and sociolinguistics.

Engaging with the Difficulties of ‘Discourse’. – Panel 4
‘Discourse’ as a concept, notion or analytic tool is used frequently in applied linguistics and other social sciences; however, it is often left undefined (Mills, 1997). Although distinctions have previously been made between ‘discourse analysis’ as spoken language and ‘text analysis’ as written (Crystal, 1987) the distinction between the spoken and written is increasingly blurred. Furthermore, the term ‘discourse’ has evolved across disciplines and is used to analyse phenomena beyond the microstructures of language. This includes the coherence that can group certain discourses and the social processes and practices that can unite, govern and give rise to dominant discourses in society (Foucault, 1972).
This presentation seeks to engage with the difficulties of understanding and working with
‘discourse’ and ‘discourse analysis’ as both theory and method. It will explore a variety of approaches, unpicking and differentiating epistemological and ontological principles that make each approach a ‘complete package’, whilst also making links and comparisons between them. It will also consider my journey of engaging with discourse analysis from undergraduate to doctoral level in the search for securing my own theoretical framework for the analysis of immigration discourses in the UK.

Nick Furze (CCCU)

Nick is a PhD candidate and sessional lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University. His thesis is focused upon applying the principles of adaption theory to historical film and television.

The adaptation of history in Game of Thrones by its removal from an historical context. – Panel 6

This paper provides an analysis of the Television series Game of Thrones, (Benioff and Weiss, 2011-present), and its creation of an historical aesthetic. It consists of an analysis of how the series engages with European late-medieval history and culture by its removal from an historical context.

The paper consists of a short introduction on what is meant by the term historical aesthetic and why the creation of it constitutes a form of adaptation, before focusing upon how the series’ visual style and its signifiers take inspiration and deviate from the historical records.

This paper ultimately aims to foster an understanding of how the program-makers have utilised medieval iconography, including but not limited to art, heraldry and architecture and aspects of what we consider to be a medieval mentality, for example late-medieval attitudes towards superstition and power structures. In order to re-present them within a modern television series and from a modern perspective.

This paper will include a Power-point Presentation and a prepared DVD, from which I will be showing two clips of around one minute in length.

Trevor Gerhardt (CCCU)

HEA Associate, research interest in adult vocational education and theological education. Trevor is currently an EdD candidate at CCCU.

An On-going Discussion: Clerical Professionalism. – Panel 1

The Church of England is the state church and, as such, clergy are ordained to a public office. In the 19th century, Church of England clergy were named as one of the first professions alongside lawyers and physicians. Today, even though 26 bishops sit in the House of Lords, many clergy and those in society would no longer view clergy as professionals alongside lawyers and physicians. Much has changed in the last two centuries.

This research situated in 21st century England, aims to engage with this new context by analysing the role of Church of England clergy and, as a result, what training is appropriate in preparing them to inhabit that role. This research matters to me because it will inform my professional working context. Church attendance in the Church of England is very low, clergy numbers are very low and recruitment is very low. This research is crucial in understanding how to prepare clergy for the demands of such a complex public role.

Using survey questionnaires and interviews, and drawing on my own experience as a programme director, the data and interview material indicates that there is insufficient training regarding the complexity of role and a de-emphasis on formation despite the use of reflection. There is vast disparity and inconsistency, with training lacking rigour and quality assurance. The training of curates is out-dated and would be improved by creating new models and programmes that continue to develop professionalism in role appropriate for vocational occupations.
Daniel Giraldo (CCCU)

Daniel is currently undertaking a Masters by Research at Canterbury Christ Church University. He is writing his thesis on the effectiveness of US covert operations in Chile during the early 1970s.

Changing threats but a continuity of debate. A discussion on the techniques of the CIA. – Panel 4

With regards to the covert operations conducted by the CIA in Chile there are a number of broader themes that are not just relevant to historians but the wider community. The nature of US involvement in another country’s political affairs is an on-going issue, as demonstrated by the recent military interventions in the Middle East. This also raises the question of whether or not smaller and less affluent nations are able to exercise self-determination. However, given the recent exposé of the CIA’s torture programme of suspected terrorists in Guantanamo, the operations in Chile in the 1970s are a historic reminder that restrictions imposed on the Agency don’t seem to be working in the 21st Century. The clandestine operations in Chile also produced a senate investigation of its own adding weight to the Agency’s reputation of acting outside its legal jurisdiction and the primary intelligence-gathering mandate enacted by Congress. Given the recent public discourse over CIA activities during the War on Terror, this is a subject that resonates with a wider audience. The actions of the CIA have far-reaching consequences in terms of American prestige and that of its allies in the West. Indeed, the old debates of the 1970s have returned again – should this body be more stridently overseen and restricted, or are illicit covert operations ultimately worth some moral sacrifice to gain an advantage over the enemies of the West?

Jan Hodges (University of Chichester)

Doctoral student, history of art, biography, 20th Century British art – focusing on the newly discovered archive of father and daughter artists, H. Clarence Whaite (1895-1978) and Gillian Whaite (1934-2012).

Beyond the Pink Facade: the story of the discovery of an archive containing layers of time and meaning - an intellectual and artistic archaeological site. – Panel 2

Lives worth saving… This paper will focus on the story of a chance discovery of an archive that was destined for destruction and my subsequent objective to present it to a wider public. The archive relates to father and daughter artist/educationists and my research will address the void that exists in the discourse of 20th century Art and Education by the omission of H. Clarence Whaite (1895-1978) and his daughter Gillian (1934-2012). As a researcher in the History of Art, I have long appreciated the importance of archives as ‘the life’s blood of research’, but have been equally aware of the general concealment from public gaze.

By embracing the current academic culture of engaging with non-specialists and creating the public good that is now at the heart of the ethos of all universities, I hope to inspire and influence beyond the campus grounds. In order to raise the profile of my subject, it has been necessary to create opportunities to engage with diverse publics, shape ideas through dialogue and thus enable me to look for connections that examining the archive alone would not provide. These are initially taking the form of exhibitions, talks to community groups and articles in the media.

My research will be the first based on this collection and my long-term aim is to digitise and thus make the archive accessible to both researchers and the wider community.
Jo Hook (CCCU)

Early Intervention and Prevention – Canterbury Christ Church University.

What use are non-empirical theories and approaches to recent thinking of Early Intervention? – Panel 5

The Early intervention Foundation (EIF) identifies that the “purpose of Early Intervention is to reduce the likelihood of poor long-term outcomes for children, their families—as well as society at large—whilst being cost-effective”

Set up as a response to the recommendations of the Grahame Allen review the EIF promotes the use of ‘evidence based programmes” and research into discovering “what works” in early intervention.

In November 2014 the EIF was awarded the status of a “what works’ centre by the what works network. (www.gov.uk/what-works-network) The network’s “mission is the generation and collation of evidence” to ensure that “thorough, high quality, independently assessed evidence shapes decision-making at every level”.

I am an Early Intervention commissioner and a doctoral student. Professionally, understanding “what works” is a large part of being a successful commissioner. Academically, I am influenced by the thinking of structuralism, post-structuralism, critical theory and postmodern theory. This feels like a guilty secret.

This paper will not be a selfless offering. It will seek to alleviate my concern for the potential “use” of my research to my field of work by arguing that the “what works” stance and associated approaches cannot fully identify the solutions needed to improve outcomes for children and families. In addition, the paper will argue that widening the lens, to look within and outside of the systems that contextualise Early Intervention, may indeed take us further than the “what works” approach can on its own.

Steven Horne (CCCU)

Steven is a researcher undertaking his PhD in Theology, focusing on his own unique area – Traveller Theology. Specialist areas of interest include Gypsy and Traveller studies, Practical and Pastoral theology, and social and political engagement.

Traveller Theology: An Introduction. – Panel 2

I shall be presenting an introduction to my concept 'Traveller Theology'; an amalgamation of theological understanding and Gypsy/Traveller conceptions and practices. The area of spirituality in contemporary UK Traveller and Gypsy studies is virtually un-investigated barring the regurgitated tales of palmistry and tarot-card reading. ‘Traveller theology’ is an attempt to go deeper, beyond the readily observable and direct via direct engagement with the Travelling community.

Exploring Traveller identity from within a position of social suspicion through a developing theological framework, Traveller theology enables a persecuted and ostracised community to begin to form their own cultural and spiritual identity; the subsequent translation happening by way of established theological practices, as well as a cultural anthropology with a biographical influence.

Investigating themes and areas of Traveller life through a theological lens allows for a picture to develop that reveals a complexity and depth to Traveller thought and spirituality that (with particular reference to modern UK Travellers), is unexplored. As such, a new representation of Travellers is allowed to emerge, devoid of prejudice and media-fuelled opinion. Such a project is of course not without its challenges, particularly in engaging the communities themselves; issues
of trust, contention and misunderstanding create a dichotomous situation of secrecy and proud tradition. As such, the process of interaction with the communities is insightful in many ways, and as such, it provides a powerful and complimentary metanarrative-aspect to my work.

Md Ismil Hossain (University of Bolton)

Ismil is undertaking a PhD in Human Resource Management in the Business School at the University of Bolton.

Examining the impact of institutional environments on HRM practices in developed and developing countries: The case of UK and Bangladesh. – Panel 3

The last few decades has seen a plethora of research on HRM practices of multinational companies (MNCs) who originate from developed but operate in developing countries. However, most of these tend not to consider in an explicit way the dynamics of HRM practices of MNCs from developing economies operating in more developed contexts. This is somewhat counterintuitive given the recent impact of globalisation, its emphasis on inter-dependency among countries and the shift of economic power from developed to the developing countries. It is, therefore, the purpose of this study examine and understand how country institutional environments differently determine HRM practices of MNCs from developed countries operating in developing countries, as well as MNCs from developing countries operating in developed countries. One way of achieving this objective is to examine the institutional mechanisms that define the two contexts and their influence on ‘the diffusion of HRM practices’ in the subsidiaries of MNCs originating from one but operating in another context.

The aim is to provide a better, more complete understanding of the relationship between institutional environments and HRM practices of MNCs. At this stage, the research is predominantly focused on reviewing the following strands of literature - institutional theory and the environment; HRM practices and systems; and MNCs within the contexts of developed and developing countries. This research would adopt a mostly qualitative approach in order to more fully explore the dynamic relationship between the institutional environment and HRM practices of MNCs from developed and developing countries.

Asya Kudlenko (CCCU)

Asya is working on her PhD under the supervision of Dr. Soeren Keil (first supervisor) and Dr. Amelia Hadfield (second supervisor) in Politics and International Relations. Her thesis title is “The role of the EU in security sector reform”.

Making the link between research and wider society- the impact of Political Science. – Panel 7

Asya Kudlenko studies security sector reform (SSR) and its importance for the post-conflict transformation. The research looks into the role of internal and external actors in the security sector and the ways SSR can contribute to improving the security dynamics of regions with the recent legacy of war.
Amina M’lili (CCCU)

Amina is a PhD researcher at Canterbury Christ Church University, working with Prof. Thomas Hennessey (History) and Dr. Soeren Keil (IR) as joint supervisors. She is in receipt of a full MPhil/PhD scholarship from the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, to work on ‘United States Foreign Policy and the Human Rights: utilizing International Relations Theory’

Making the link between research and wider society- the impact of Political Science. – Panel 7

Amina M’lili will discuss her research on the concept of Human Rights in the United States’ foreign policy. She will examine the American foreign policy from the end of the Second World War to President George W. Bush’s Presidency with reference to International Relations theories. This research will assess the ambiguities surrounding American foreign policy towards Human Rights.

Raymond Mutumhe (CCCU)

Does Corporate Governance Have Impact on IPOs Returns? – Panel 3

This study aims at examining the impact of corporate governance on IPOs under-pricing returns before, during and after the financial crisis of 2008 on firms that trade on AIM. The reason why this research focus on AIM is because AIM is considered less stable than fully listed companies. It was intended to give some measure of their relative stability/success. The identification of good practice with AIM companies in terms of governance issues is also considered in this research, given that good governance relates to good business practice and that if these companies are to progress to full listing status then they will need to comply with UK Combined Code (Financial Reporting Council, 2003), so it would be useful to see if they are adopting a basis for good governance at this stage.

AIM is the London Exchange extension that deals with only minor and growing companies. It ought to be stressed that AIM firms are not compulsory to give details of their corporate governance and they are not compulsory to meet the situations of the Combined Code. Questions are the companies trading on AIM are they creating development near meeting some of the necessities of the Combined Code, Jeffrey M (2006) specified that the current Combined Code (Financial Reporting Council, 2003) prerequisite is that half the board, without the chairman, ought be non-decision-making managements, and with the mainstream of them being sovereign, as founded on Higgs (2003) meaning of individuality.

All the firms seemed to have check boards, with some specifying the non-executive manager as the chair, though few of them had suggestions or compensation boards. On the entire, for a collection of firms that are not mandatory to report on corporate governance, there appeared to be a preparedness to display development in that respect, nevertheless this needs a more comprehensive reading to be steered to investigate the present situation and to analysis development over a period of years.

Asher Pirt (CCCU)

Asher has been awarded a Faculty MPhil/PhD scholarship to work on political leadership in Russia with the thesis title ‘Evaluating Vladimir Putin as leader: utilizing Alistair Cole’s framework of analysis’. The research is exploring the extent of Putin’s impact on Russia since appointment as president in 2000 with particular focus on the constraints and opportunities faced by the Russian national leader.
Making the link between research and wider society - the impact of Political Science. – Panel 7

Asher Pirt’s research is concerned with an evaluation of Vladimir Putin’s leadership in order to reveal a greater understanding of contemporary Russia. The Ukraine crisis has indicated that research into Putin’s leadership is desperately needed. Following an interactionist approach, Asher will outline early results of his research into Putin’s leadership.

Roshan Nimantha Panditharathna (University of Bolton)
I obtained my first degree in Ecobusiness management with a second class upper in Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. After that, I completed MA in Marketing & Innovation degree with a merit in Anglia Ruskin University. I am an associate member of Chartered Institute of Marketing (ACIM) and a doctoral student member in American Marketing Association. My research interests are consumer behavior, relationship marketing and green marketing. Currently, I am a PhD research student in University of Bolton, researching on relationship marketing in banking sector in UK.

Consumer Behaviour on Green Products in London Borough of Ealing. – Panel 3

Consumers are now increasingly concerned on environmental issues as never before. As a result, green marketing concepts have widely become popular all over the world. So, this study was engaged with consumers’ behaviour based on green products with key demographic characteristics. Objectives of the study were to identify the present level of consumer awareness on green products in London borough of Ealing and evaluate consumers’ demographics factors affecting on demand of the green products. Literature survey revealed that consumers behave differently based on their age, gender, income level and education level on green products. This study predominantly used quantitative research techniques, underpinned by quantitative research methods. The data was collected by using a structured questionnaire through engaging with 120 consumers. Findings were derived from various statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics and statistical inference techniques. According to hypotheses, H01: People in old ages are more likely to buy green products which t value was 0.83, H02: Females are more likely to buy green products which t value was that 0.74, H03: Higher income holders are more likely to buy green products which t value was that 0.91 and H04: More educated people are likely to buy more green products which t value was that 0.97. So, statistical findings proved that there is no significant different between two groups compared in each hypothesis. These insights are very important to marketers who engage with drafting strategies and consumers who wish to choose green products.

Razia Shariff ( CCCU)
Razia is a PhD student in Politics and International Relations, supervised by Dr David Bates. Her research explores current understandings of civil society and agency through a literature review and discourse analysis of UK and Bangladesh policy and practice texts. By using critical theoretical insights and a case study of the Shahbag movement in Bangladesh she develop a conditions framework to support the collective agency capabilities of civil society for social justice and change.

Making sense by playing with discourse: Situating my research in theoretical and current contexts to make it engaging and meaningful. – Panel 4

My current research not only involves different cultural, social, economic and political contexts of the UK and Bangladesh but also brings together different theoretical traditions and dimensions
regarding civil society. From my literature review civil society can be seen as an entity between the state and the market, as a network of collectives with agency capabilities, and as a ‘multitude of singularities’.

The research is topical and current and can therefore be engaging, but does this mean that I need to represent my research in different ways, to different audiences, and in doing this how do I retain the integrity, authenticity and consistency in my research? What are the implications of playing with discourse and positioning my research in different discourse contexts academically and contextually? By not adapting my research to different contexts can the recipients still ‘make sense’ of it?

My paper will explore my research and the different ways it can be presented in different theoretical and current contexts to make it engaging and meaningful and the implications this has on making sense of my research. It will also examine my use of discourse in situating and positioning my research in these different contexts and how this may limit an understanding of my research potential and possibilities. It concludes by suggesting that, the way we make and adapt meaning about our research actually creates the possibilities for how people engage with our research and the impact it can have, but also, risks compromising what our research actually is.

Juman Simaan (CCCU)

Juman has been a senior lecturer in Occupational Therapy since 2010. His main interests are in social justice issues and their links to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. As an Occupational Therapist he worked with children and young people in Palestine and the UK, and in hospitals in the UK. He has an MSc in Therapeutic Counselling, with some experience in working with migrants with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Olive growing as a daily activity under military occupation in Palestine. – Panel 5

Olive growing is an essential activity for Palestinians who live under military occupation, which enforces land segregation and confiscation, restrictions on travel, colony building, and violence against people and trees. As an Occupational Therapist (OT) who is interested in enablers and barriers to participation in everyday activities (occupations) I aim, in this on-going PhD study, to describe the daily lives of farmers in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territories, and how the consequences of the military occupation impact on this activity and the health and wellbeing of olive growers.

Using Ethnographic methods, such as participant observations, and in-depth interviews, information has been gathered from 48 participants during olive harvest and tree planting seasons. Informed by Grounded Theory principles, field notes and interview transcripts were coded, and themes originating from farmers’ culture and way of life sought.

Preliminary themes that emerged from the data suggest a link to OT concepts relating to public health and social justice, and to indigenous Palestinian values of cooperation and steadfastness which help in the maintenance of the activity of olive growing despite the barriers posed by the military occupation.

These links may contribute to studying the ‘doing’ of communities beyond the Western world. Moreover, this study may enrich OT’s knowledge of contextual factors which influence occupation (meaningful daily activity) on a community level, as well as expand some collectivist aspects of occupation, such as the ‘belonging’ - to land, culture and community - determinant of ‘doing’. Finally this study may contribute to emerging body of knowledge in OT relating to working with multi-cultural communities, and in emerging roles such as with migrants, and in community development.
Laurie Simpson (CCCU)

Laurie is a third year part-time PhD student affiliated with the Faculty of Education. In her work as a career guidance counsellor her interests lie with holistic career guidance practice, which considers the whole person and the influences that impact on their lives. Her doctoral study deliberates the moments when individuals make salient career or life decisions. The intention is to explore the feelings, thoughts and emotions people experience at moments in time when they make what they feel are significant career decisions. These moments are then captured by the person using a creative practice of their own choosing enhancing their autonomy in the process.

Research in context: the continued story of a developing autoethnographical researcher. – Panel 2

Utilising an autoethnographical stance, this researcher explores how the application of creative practices in recording individuals’ salient life-career moments can help them to recognise the feelings, thoughts and emotions experienced within those moments. The documentation of the researcher’s own emotions and experiences throughout her life-career journey provides a unique and personal element to the work, often displaying her vulnerability and offering an insight to the tensions faced by researchers as they venture forth on their inquiring quest. A descriptive account will she hopes evoke a feeling that the experience described is life-like and believable. The plurality of participant and researcher’s salient moments and the research process adopted provides both reflective and reflexive accounts, which are immersed in the work to provide richness. As such she works with and in the context of her topic. ‘Not only is the individual a participant in the social context in which their experience takes place, but they are also an observer of their own story and its social location’ (Muncey, 2010, p2).

Now in the third year of a part-time doctorate, she has begun to observe how the context of the process implemented has developed over time and space to raise awareness of how her work could have implications for possible holistic career guidance practice. A tentative discussion is offered to describe study outcomes to date, the emergence of a model for practice and how this could be a useful addition to the guidance counsellor’s tool box.

Victoria Stirrup (CCCU)

Victoria Stirrup is an MPhil/PhD candidate at Canterbury Christ Church University researching the use of lived experience of mental health issues within peer support. Alongside her research, Victoria works as the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Associate on a project to embed mental health peer support into Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust. Her research interests include user involvement, expertise by experience, and social inclusion.

Participant not patient- employing a person centred approach to researching the use of lived experience in mental health peer support. - Panel 5

Historically, recovery amongst adults with serious mental health issues has been characterised by an emphasis on professional expertise (Nelson et al, 2001). The sharing of lived experience of mental distress through peer support relationships is based on mutuality (Mead, 2003) and has been recognised as promoting hope and supporting recovery (Repper, 2013). Person-centred approaches towards introducing mental health peer support into NHS service provision have prioritised relationships and engagement (Sunderland et al, 2013), in turn contesting the conscious or unconscious reinforcement of the service user as passive patient (Slay and Stephens, 2013).

How then should engagement be viewed when researching peer support in the mental health service context? With whom should research engage and how?
What is the role of the researcher?
This paper reflects upon the experience of employing a person-centred approach to research to explore the use of lived experience within mental health peer support. Informed by my role as Peer Support Project Development Officer in an NHS Foundation Trust it will reflect on how I have sought to engage my research with service users and the peer support community as part of the research process. Emphasising how the researcher, through engagement with the values of peer support, the NHS service context, and building relationships with service users, can exceed expectation to simply involve service users within research design (Health Research Authority 2014). Into practice that sees engagement as a necessary and essential condition of meaningful research within this field.

Caroline Thomas (CCCU)
Caroline is a PhD student and Senior Lecturer in Education at Canterbury Christ Church University. Her research interests include children’s voice, school leadership, academies and Christian education. Her PhD study investigates the development of distinctively Christian ethos and approaches to education in Christian academies and student interpretation of their educational experiences.

The relationship between ethos creation, context, and student perceptions of their educational experience in a Christian academy. – Panel 1

The presentation explores the relationship between the research context, the ethos created by academy leaders in a new Christian academy and the student perceptions of their educational experience. The analysis draws on research findings from a case study exploring academy leaders’ conceptualisation and establishment of Christian ethos and its interpretation by students. The research includes interviews with school leaders, stakeholders, documentary analysis and researcher observations. To elucidate student interpretations of their education, students act as co-researchers and participate in analysing outcomes from draw and write tasks and photo-elicitation activities.

In setting up new academies, head teachers and senior leaders engage with a complexity of environmental factors when making strategic decisions about vision, ethos and the practices required to transform the vision into reality. Identifying what is of value, why and to who is part of the leadership process aimed at securing stakeholder trust and commitment. The routines, structures, and pedagogical practices implemented, once established, form part of the stakeholders’ experienced ethos.
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