



# **STRENGTH IN <sup>Uo</sup>DIVERSITY**

## **Programme**

**UON Annual Research Conference 2024**

**25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## **PROGRAMME DAY 1 (Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> June)** [Book your place](#)

*Leatherseller's Hide, Learning Hub 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Waterside Campus*

*Breakout rooms Learning Hub 1<sup>st</sup> floor LH125, LH124 and LH121*

Wellbeing rooms:

For the duration of the on-campus day we have booked a variety of 'quiet' rooms where anyone can go if they need to get away from the hustle and bustle of the conference venues. These rooms are LH103, LH105, LH106, LH107, LH205 and LH207. Please feel free to use them at any time.

**9.00–9:35 REGISTRATION, REFRESHMENTS** [Leatherseller's Hide](#)

### **'Touch the Artefacts' Research Exhibition & Bookshelf**

- **Postlandlordism slogan scarves (Knitted acrylic, two sided football scarves, sizes variable).** Commissioned for the 'Housing Question', in Ideal Home Show, curated by Miguel Amado, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art. 2018. Free art collective (2004-2018), Dave Beech, Andy Hewitt and Mel Jordan.
- **Cross collaboration in the creative digital space.** David Nicholls, Lewis Sanderson, Rob Kavanagh
- **Cerberus-View at NAIF:** Exploring the Microscopic Realm with Triple-Headed Microscopes. Sonika Divakar
- **Moving beyond Words.** Gillian Siddall
- **Research publications bookshelf.** UON Researchers.
- **Images of Research 2024 (on TV Screen).** UON Researchers.

**9.35-9:50 OPENING SESSION:** Welcome from Dr Cathy Smith, Dean of Research & Knowledge Exchange, plus announcement of The Graduate School's *Images of Research* winners. [Leatherseller's Hide](#)

**9:50-10:00 MOVE TO PARALLEL SESSIONS**

## 10:00-11.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS 1

<p><b>1a Health and Wellbeing</b> <a href="#">Leatherseller's Hide</a> <b>Chair: Sally Sharp</b></p> <p><b>Anne Hagues</b> Counsellors' Experiences Working with Clients Experiencing Medically Unexplained Medical Symptoms.</p> <p><b>Nicola Smithers</b> How can parents be supported through the process of withdrawing life-sustaining treatment from their critically ill baby?</p> <p><b>Sally Sharp</b> Sharing Stories of Wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>1b Technology and Innovation</b> <a href="#">LH 125</a> <b>Chair: Van Anh Nguyen</b></p> <p><b>Lewis Collins</b> An Introduction to the Northampton Advanced Imaging Facility (NAIF).</p> <p><b>Mateusz Giziki</b> Developing and Testing Temporary Fire Barriers System for Lift Shafts.</p> <p><b>David Meechan</b> Study Smart: Using Chat GPT for Qualitative Data Analysis at UON.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>1c Historical and Cultural Analysis</b> <a href="#">LH 124</a> <b>Chair: Shaowei He</b></p> <p><b>Federico Farini</b> Self-referentiality of Modern Science: Faith in Research and Distrust in Science.</p> <p><b>Andrew N. Williams</b> Two 4thC Northamptonshire inhabitants with severe spinal deformities reinterpreted using Northampton General Hospital Archive.</p> <p><b>Daniel Jones</b> The Ethics of Researching with an Extreme Archive: Caring for Self and Students.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>
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## 11.00-11:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK with University Choir performance

[Leatherseller's Hide](#)

## 11.30-12:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS 2

<p><b>2a Education and Learning</b>  <a href="#">Leatherseller's Hide</a>  <b>Chair: Van Anh Nguyen</b></p> <p><b>Rebecca Humphreys</b>          Applying a Shadowing Methodology to Leadership in Early Childhood</p> <p><b>Helen Tiplady, Sarah Cave, Josephine Chen-Wilson and Kimberley Hill.</b> The Impact of STEM Education: Improving teachers' and trainee teachers' self-efficacy in teaching STEM subjects in primary schools.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>2b Social and Cultural Studies</b>  <a href="#">LH 125</a>  <b>Chair: Believe Nwamae</b></p> <p><b>Ann J Bridge Davies</b>          Art of the Invisible: Spiritualist Art a possible strand of Survival After Death Evidence</p> <p><b>Ezekiel Coronacion</b> Filipino Care Worker Identity: Exploring Care in the Lens of Filipino Values in UK Care Homes</p> <p><b>Patrice Seuwou</b> Unveiling the Challenges and Coping Strategies among Students of African Descent at a post-1992 University in England</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>2c Roundtable for Research Centre Leaders or representatives</b>  <a href="#">LH 124</a>  <b>Facilitator: Sian Davies-Vollum</b></p> <p>Building Multi-disciplinary Connections Between Research Centres</p>
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**12:30 DELIVERED LUNCH, INCLUDING LUNCH VOUCHERS TO TAKE AWAY**  
[Leatherseller's Hide](#)

[12:30 [Talk with ULT – Town Hall, Creative Hub](#)]

14.00-14:40

**ECR-LED PECHA KUCHA**

**Facilitators Emmeline Child & Declan Ryan**

[Leatherseller's Hide](#)

- **Gosia Plotka and Al-Amin Dabo** Blueprints for Success: Building Effective Learning Environments for Employability.
- **Sonika Divakar** Collaborative Studies: A Gene that Links Rare Disease and Cancer!
- **Emmeline Child** Fashioning Waste.
- **Dr Frank Alparslan** Interweaving Expertise: Uniting Disciplines for Innovative Research.

14.45-15:45

**PARALLEL SESSIONS 3**

<p><b>3a Interdisciplinary Collaboration</b> Leatherseller's Hide <i>Chair: Sian Davies-Vollum</i></p> <p><b>Friedemann Schaber and Rebecca Fakoussa</b> Cross discipline evidence: How Design and Business creatively collaborate to enhance enterprise and social innovation.</p> <p><b>Sian Davies-Vollum and Deb Raha</b> Multi-disciplinary approaches supporting the sustainability of coastal communities.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>3b Diversity and Inclusion</b> LH 125 <i>Chair: Tracey Redwood</i></p> <p><b>Lucy Zhu</b> The Underrepresentation of Women in Esports Leadership Positions: Exploring the Barriers and Facilitating Factors</p> <p><b>Michael Cauchi</b> TechDems Can Do Research Too!</p> <p><b>Van Ahn Nguyen</b> EFL students' language learning in higher education in Vietnam: the potentials and challenges of AI-based technologies.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>3c Roundtable</b> LH 124 <i>Facilitators Craig Staff, Dr Stace Constantinou, Stefan Gant, Natasha Toms, Zoe Taylor.</i></p> <p>Practices of Attention in Art and Design Research.</p>	<p><b>3d Roundtable</b> LH 121 <i>Facilitator: Charlotte Dann</i></p> <p>How might we work with and Identities and Communities through Qualitative Approaches to Research?</p>
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**15.45-16:00 COMFORT BREAK**

**16.00-17:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS 4**

<p><b>4a Roundtable</b></p> <p>Leatherseller's Hide</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Declan Ryan, John Horton, Jackie Campbell, Tracey Redwood, Jacqueline Parkes, Puremeluan Major, Onyinye Ndefo, Chloe Gay, Shirley Plenderleith.</i></p> <p>Developing research capacity, capability, and collaboration within Northamptonshire's unitary authorities.</p>	<p><b>4b Workshop</b></p> <p>The Tipi (tent outside Engine Shed!)</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Helen Tiplady, Dr Tanya Richardson, Karen Woolley, Dr Emma Whewell.</i></p> <p>The limitless potential of a knobbly stick!</p>	<p><b>4c Workshop</b></p> <p>LH 124</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Gillian Siddall.</i></p> <p>Moving beyond words: using photovoice to explore the experience of international students coming to study at UON.</p>
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**17.00 CLOSING REMARKS and GROUP PHOTO [Leatherseller's Hide](#)**



# STRENGTH <sup>Uo</sup> IN DIVERSITY

**UON Annual Research Conference 2024**

## **PROGRAMME DAY 2 (Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> June)**

*Online on Blackboard Collaborate – [Book your place!](#)*

**Please refer to each session below for the Collaborate room links**

**9.00-9:15**    **OPENING DAY 2:** Welcome from Anne-Marie Kilday and conference organisers.

Main room

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661>

9.15-10:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS 1

<p><b>1a Technology and Innovation in Healthcare</b></p> <p>Main room <a href="https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661">https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661</a></p> <p><b>Chair: Charlotte Marshall</b></p> <p><b>Believe Nwamae</b> Adaptive Virtual mMIMO Adaptive Decode and Forward Technique with End-to-End Phase Alignment</p> <p><b>Dr. Vincent Adegoke</b> Benefits of Leveraging Cross-Disciplinary Research in Sustainable National health service.</p> <p><b>Charlotte Marshall</b> If data collection were easy, how might we log it?</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p><b>1b Sociocultural Dynamics in Healthcare</b></p> <p>Parallel Room (Room b) <a href="https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/298d08550c1543a78d964f59f2292205">https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/298d08550c1543a78d964f59f2292205</a></p> <p><b>Chair: Josephine Benefo-Agyei</b></p> <p><b>Josephine Benefo-Agyei</b> An exploration of the motivations of black African women working within the NHS during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p><b>Christiana Stephen</b> Investigating the Impact on Nigerian International Students' Learning styles and attitude towards learning in the UK: A higher education context.</p> <p><b>Dr. Jean Egbegi</b> Understanding how societal and organisational barriers affects enactment of performance management: A Nigerian Public Health Narrative.</p> <p><b>Speakers Q&amp;A</b></p>
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10.30-11:00

REFRESHMENT BREAK



## 11.00-12:15 SESSION 2 Interdisciplinary Approaches in Research

Main room

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661>

**Chair: Emma Whewell**

**Freidemann Schaber, Connor Ratcliffe and Mahmoud Moradi** Interdisciplinarity and inter-faculty collaboration: skill sharing in Podiatry, Engineering and Product Design to advance didactics, innovation and research opportunities in healthcare.

**Dr Frank Alparslan** Integrating Horizons: Enhancing Aviation through Multi-Disciplinary Research.

**Kate Ironside** Making Collaborative Experiential Learning work.

**Mark Rothery, Siobhan Hyland and Paul Jackson** Well-being Past and Present: Developing Multi-disciplinary Perspectives.

### Speakers Q&A

## 12.15-13.00 LUNCH BREAK

## 13.00-13:30 3MT: 3-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661>

**Chair: Simone Apel**

3-Minute Thesis© (3MT) is a worldwide competition in which PGRs are asked to condense their thesis into a three-minute presentation with one simple slide! The winner of this competition, run by the Graduate School at UON, will be announced later today at 3pm. Our winner will have the opportunity to represent UON by presenting their 3MT at the [East Midlands Doctoral Network \(EMDoc\) Conference 3MT Competition](#) online on 25th September.

### **13.30-15:00 SESSION 3 Human Experience and Social Impacts**

Main room

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661>

**Chair: Mark Rothery**

**Maitreyee Buragohain** Using Video Observation to Investigate the Opportunities offered by Dance for Personal Development and Inclusion of Children Experiencing Complex patients two years after the intervention: a thematic analysis.

**Ferdinando Salamino** Exploring the impact of limb lengthening cosmetic surgery in patients two years after the intervention: a thematic analysis.

**Shawky Nasser** Trade liberalisation causes food insecurity: Evidence from a sample of developing countries.

**Alison Loddick** What leads to student academic disengagement – students and lecturers perspective?

#### **Speakers Q&A**

**15.00**                      **3-Minute Thesis (3MT) winner**  
*Announced by Matthew McCormack, Head of Graduate School*

**15:05-15:30**              **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

15.30-16:30

**SESSION 4: PARALLEL ROUNDTABLES AND WORKSHOPS**

**4a Workshop:**

**Shakespeare doesn't belong here. *Facilitator: Charlotte Marshall.***

Main room <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661>

**4b Roundtable:**

**SHAPE(Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy/ Environment)ing Research, Knowledge Production and Knowledge Exchange.**

***Facilitators: Lorna Jowett with Lisa Lapidge, Tom Brassington, Emel Thomas.***

Parallel room b: <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/298d08550c1543a78d964f59f2292205>

**4c Roundtable:**

**More than meets the eye: the diverse landscape of educational research. *Facilitator: Cristina Devecchi,*** plus Simon Chapman, Maitreyee Buragohain, Devon Rossetti, Lucy Westley, Claire Shelley, Sally Sharp, Alexia Achtypi, Jane Murray, Nefi Charambolous-Darden, Abbie Deeming, Helen Crawford, Pat Carrington and Helen Tiplady.

Parallel room c: <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/d62c987f693a4a5b808cdee31bfb55e7>

**4d Roundtable:**

**Health Education and Behaviour Change (HEBC).**

***Facilitator: Rachel Maunder*** with Kimberley Hill, Zhimin He, Nick Thompson and Valentina Diaconu.

Parallel room d: <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/3d71c0706e6240b799416f098a0d5d1a>

16.30

**FINAL CONFERENCE PLENARY AND CLOSE**

Main room

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/70bb0bdee293465bbc3464b6d1dee661>

## **ABSTRACTS** (first author, A-Z by first name)

Key:

### **Title of presentation**

*Author name(s)*

Abstract

### **What leads to student academic disengagement – students and lecturers perspective?**

*Alison Loddick*

Research conducted by Klem and Connel (2004), Shernoff and Schmidt (2007), and Appleton, Christenson, and Furlong (2008) has shown that student engagement and disengagement have a significant impact on student success and increased retention. While much research has been conducted on student engagement, particularly in schools, less attention has been given to understanding what leads to student disengagement. Chipchase et al. (2017) conducted a literature review to explore the multi-dimensional nature of student disengagement. However, due to the limited research, it is essential to continue exploring what leads to academic disengagement among university students.

Solomonides and Martin (2008) compared the perceptions of lecturers and students regarding student engagement. Their study found that students' psychological ties to a university significantly impacted their motivation. In contrast, staff (lecturers) evaluated student engagement based on the quantity of knowledge pupils acquired, the amount of effort they made, and their level of readiness for learning. However, given the changes within universities and students attending universities with different backgrounds and education levels, this nearly 20-year-old research may be outdated.

This PhD research was conducted at a post-1992 university to understand, in part, how students and lecturers perceived the factors leading to academic disengagement. The case study explored the views of 20 lecturers and 117 students in interviews and focus groups. The students came from various ethnic backgrounds, ages, and home locations, providing insights into the specific concerns of students within these groupings.

The presentation will share research findings, which, as seen by Chipchase et al. (2017), will explore the multidimensions contributing to disengagement. The presentation will

focus on student perspectives of what leads to disengagement with some comparison to their views with lecturers. Additionally, the presentation will hone in on key themes that emerged from participant responses. The findings indicate that students and lecturers share common understandings about disengagement. Among the factors that motivate disengagement, students' current and future aspirations play a significant role, as do the quality of relationships between students and their lecturers.

This presentation is an essential resource for lecturers and universities to understand students' perceptions of their studies and take steps to reduce disengagement.

#### References

Appleton, J.J., Christenson, S.L., Furlong, M.J. (2008) Student engagement with school: Critical conceptual and methodological issues of the construct. *Psychology in the Schools*. 45(5), 369–386. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pits.20303>

Chipchase, L., Davidson, M., Blackstock, F., Bye, R., Colthier, P., Krupp, N., Dickson, W., Turner, D., Williams, M. (2017) Conceptualising and Measuring Student Disengagement in Higher Education: A Synthesis of the Literature. *International Journal of Higher Education* 6(2), 31-42. <https://doi.org/10.5430/ijhe.v6n2p31>

Klem, A., Connel, J. (2004) Relationships matter: linking teacher support to student engagement and achievement - Document - Gale Academic OneFile. *Journal of School Health*. 74(7), 262–273.

Shernoff, D.J., Schmidt, J.A. (2007) Further Evidence of an Engagement–Achievement Paradox Among U.S. High School Students. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* 2007 37:5. 37(5), 564–580. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-007-9150-0>

### **Take up your bed and walk – an initial exploration. Two 4th century CE adult Romano-British Northamptonshire inhabitants with severe spinal deformities reinterpreted using material from the Northampton General Hospital Archive**

*Andrew N. Williams*

Excavations in Towcester in 2000 and ongoing at Chester House have afforded a view into the inhabitants of Romano-British Northamptonshire. Two adult skeletons both exhibiting severe spinal deformity have been excavated with no accompanying material culture.

Using material held in the Archive at Northampton General Hospital, the evolving clinical pathology and symptomatology can be constructed. Using premodern medicine literature,

'Commentaries' (Pott, 1774) and 'On the nature and treatment of the deformities of the human frame' (Little 1843) the care of these individuals can be contextualised. Furthermore, using 2 named individuals treated by the Northampton Crippled Children's Fund (1896-1923) can illustrate the practical delivery of long-term care ie for 10 or more years for these individuals with a severely progressive condition. A brief discussion on wax votive offerings will also be offered. This presentation marks the start of a hopeful joint Universities of Northampton and Leicester application to the AHRC.

**Postlandlordism slogan scarves; All Housing Is Social, There Is No Housing Shortage, Only The Monopoly of Property, No Landlords! No Rent!, Homes Not Property. Knitted acrylic, two sided football scarves, sizes variable. Commissioned for the 'Housing Question', in Ideal Home Show, curated by Miguel Amado, Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art. 2018. Free art collective (2004-2018), Dave Beech, Andy Hewitt and Mel Jordan**

*Andy Hewitt, Dave Beech, Mel Jordan (Free art collective)*

The Free Art Collective formed community through declaring agreement and disagreement, with the use of manifesto, spoken choir, bodily endorsement of slogan and kiosk. Free were not activists but experimented with platforms of politicisation. Political art is not politics nor a branch of politics. Art is not the publicity machine for radical politics. It is understandable that politicised artists end up turning to real politics as the content and the rationale of their work. However, this always requires a depoliticisation of art itself. Free politicised art by engaging in activities that called on participants to declare a position in relation to current issues.

Free conceived of publics through techniques that derive from montage: cutting, pasting, rearranging, splitting and joining. Individuals and groups are temporarily cut out of the community and pasted into new configurations, rearranged through discursive processes of splitting and joining (disagreeing and agreeing) and then reassembled in a new totality through acts of collective publishing.

Borrowing from the material culture and partisanship of football, the Postlandlordism slogan scarves are props that were made to be chosen (agree or disagree), then embodied by being held, worn, waved, and the slogan said or even chanted. The slogans scarf can be photographed as selfies, with images to be kept or passed onto others. Free also devised a football tournament held in a park in Berlin, when teams formed around the slogans they

agreed with rather than friendships or their footballing skills. Freee would also encourage others to write their own slogan scarves in their slogan writing workshops.

### **Art of the Invisible; Spiritualist Art a possible strand of survival after death evidence**

*Ann J Bridge Davies*

Art has been created under the religious banner of Spiritualism since 1852. It is a possible subject for acknowledgement of the survival of human consciousness after death since a mediumistic artist is able to create portraits of a deceased person without having known them. Research for this art form was conducted in America, Australia, Britain and Europe. Information was collected referencing art-works dating from 1852 to date. Whilst gathering information, both visual and literary, a theory began to form as to whether the work could solve the issue of after death communication with the use of an evidencing photograph. Two drawn and painted portraits with explanations and photographs will be shown illustrating the concept of spirit art as a tool for such evidence.

### **A Reflexive Thematic Analysis Exploring Counsellors' Experiences of Working With Clients Experiencing Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms**

*Anne Hagues*

Previous research into professionals' experiences of working with patients experiencing medically unexplained physical symptoms (MUPS) has predominantly focused on challenges faced by medical professionals. Given the consensus that MUPS have a psychological cause and maintenance element, my Masters research explored counsellors' experiences of treating these clients. Through reflexive thematic analysis, findings revealed hypotheses regarding the aetiology of MUPS, including trauma, alexithymia, defence mechanisms and the challenge of somatic fixation. The findings also highlighted an unresearched phenomenon of somatic countertransference of symptoms, negatively impacting counsellors' health. My current PhD research explores this phenomenon in greater depth. When working with MUPS clients, a multi-disciplinary approach linking medical and psychological fields is advisable. It is hoped this research can encourage more discussion about MUPS at an individual and societal level, ultimately aiming to establish more effective ways of working with MUPS, informing clinical practice and the wellbeing of clients and professionals.

## **Adaptive Virtual mMIMO Adaptive Decode and Forward Technique with End-to-End Phase Alignment**

*Believe Nwamae*

Massive MIMO (mMIMO) remains a key technology in current and the future wireless communication systems. Multi-antenna systems exploit diversity to achieve very high data rate and channel efficiency. However, implementation of wireless massive Multiple-input Multiple-Output systems is problematic due to the large sized operational wavelength over small dimensionality of mobile devices and mitigate impact with destructive decoding. An Adaptive Virtual massive MIMO (AV-mMIMO) technique in this research significantly decrease the Bit Error Rate and increases the channel capacity between two single-antenna equipped communication nodes. Adaptive decode and forward technique and end-to-end phase alignment is employed. AV-mMIMO-ADF benefits from increased diversity of mMIMO channels and is applicable to mobile environments with no fundamental changes to the network topology. MMSE estimation via adaptive Multi User Detection is used for training (selection and recruitment) to transform multiple single-antenna nodes to a single multi-antenna array node.

## **Roundtable Discussion: How might we work with and for Identities & Communities through qualitative approaches to research?**

*Charlotte Dann, Evangelia Prokopiou, Research Group Members*

### **If data collection were easy, how might we log it?**

*Charlotte Marshall*

The aim of this interdisciplinary contribution is to share literary and artistic outpourings that feature in a post-qualitative research project which explores bodily felt moments of pause for level 8 learners. The project took a three phased approach, both phases one and two will be drawn on for the benefit of this presentation.

In phase one of the project participants were asked, "if data collection were easy, how might we log it?" as an act of rebellion against entrenched ways of research creation thinking and to shift the focus from 'what is' into 'what is becoming' (Murriss, 2021) and even 'what is possible'. Phase one allowed for diverse and inclusive research creation that was receptive and respective of materiality and what Bennett (2010) terms "Thing Power".



Rather than asking participants to park their normal ways of working, this project invited an “and” positionality of researcher and participants that embraced their entangled identities (Haraway, 2016).

This contribution will share reflections from the first two phases to encourage other researchers in their small acts of rebellion against what is for the benefit of what could be to see what we gain when we are inclusive.

### ***"Shakespeare doesn't belong here"***

*Charlotte Marshall*

From tracing an idea to crafting a proposal the pathway to PhD is presented as linear and often positions the supervisor as the ‘all seeing and knower’ (Haraway, 1988) of the subject matter. Subsequently a binary divide between the student and the academic is established, the divide is reinforced when the Postgraduate Researchers (PGR) submit their work for feedback. A PGR will spend significant time crafting their thinking into a submittable form that is robust enough for critique which has potential to leave the PGR feeling vulnerable. By adopting a diffractive analysis (Barad, 2007) the level 8 student experience is revealed as interconnected and emergent and exposes how a student might be affected by the supervisory relationship. From this positionality when a supervisor suggests a chunk of writing needs to be removed, it makes sense that the researcher is personally affected which ripples further into their entanglement.

This workshop presents an artefact of ‘cuts’ and exegesis into the affect of having to remove pieces of writing not deemed appropriate. It leans into the “thingly scent” (Bennet, 2010) of collaging to challenge what is meant by ‘belonging’ in academic writing and invites attendees to consider what they leave out in their writing and why.

### **Investigating the Impact on Nigerian International Students’ Learning styles and attitude towards learning in the UK: A higher education context**

*Christiana Stephen*

Interacting with the human species is equivalent to interacting with incredibly diverse components. The human species are diverse (Markus and Kitayama, 1991). This provides an insight into why there are so many different types of clothes, music, food, beliefs, rules, languages, religions, and values among different groups of people (Markus and Kitayama,

1991). Despite human biological comparisons, the common need to eat, rest, safety, perception, and learning differs from society to society and from group to group. What shapes individual choices or determines desires? what impacts learning, learning styles and attitude towards learning? how one behaves, how one sees and receives the world? Research suggests that the immersion in any culture shapes individuality, how we see and feel about the world, how one behaves within it, and the range of choices we must operate with (Hofstede, 2001). This project aims to explore the role of culture and its impact on Nigerian students learning styles and attitude towards learning in the UK.

### **Roundtable: Practices of Attention in Art and Design Research**

*Craig Staff, Stace Constantinou, Stefan Gant, Natasha Toms, Zoe Taylor*

As co-lead for the Art & Design Research Centre, I would like to chair a roundtable discussion which seeks to engage with the question of what 'attention' means to researchers working within the context of art, design and other cognate disciplines that are practice-based. To this end, the proposed roundtable will consider how research within this context utilises particular modes of attention. On the basis of the call for submissions, and, given the fact that, according to artist Moyra Derby, "as a response mechanism to external stimuli, attention is culturally and contextually dependent," the roundtable will also seek to explore how our modes of attention as researchers might help us examine, understand and provide solutions to the so-called 'post-pandemic malaise' and the sense of 'impending doom' that saturates life in the 2020s.

### ***More than meets the eye: PGR students and staff doing research in education***

*Cristina Devecchi*

There is more to research in education than meets the eyes. This roundtable brings together staff and PGR students researching education across all phases, from early years to adult learning, and across different countries. Focused on creating inclusive and equitable opportunities for all learners, the roundtable is a testimony of both the diversity of foci and methodologies, and the strength of students and staff working together.

All presenters have their presentation accepted at both national and international conferences and this roundtable is an opportunity to showcase the diversity of research in education. The roundtable is organised in presenters divided in 4 groups. Each presenter has 5 minutes to present their research with 5 minutes for questions at the end. Every 20

minutes, attendees move to a different group to have the opportunity to engage with all presenters.

### **The Ethics of Researching with an Extreme Archive: Caring for Self and Students**

*Daniel Jones*

Radical collections from activist organisations are important sources, both to help understand niche groups within society and to help us understand better the diversity of communities. The use of sometimes problematic archives, including those of extreme intolerant groups, is vital to properly decolonising our syllabus - but, when handling material designed to cause hate and anguish, how do we care for the researchers and research staff who come into contact with this? How do we balance wellbeing and scholarly interests?

Based on over a decade of the Searchlight Archive at the University of Northampton, this talk explores the solutions – and challenges – that have been worked into practice here at Northampton, allowing for both a maximal approach to research access while also ensuring responsible access and care towards our researchers, as well as the public who engage with our research.

### **Study Smart: a case study of using Chat GPT for qualitative data analysis at UoN.**

*David Meechan, Helen Caldwell, Rob Howe*

This presentation will begin with a brief introduction to Chat GPT, Custom GPTs and the capacity such models have to undertake qualitative analysis. This will be contextualised in relation to both the challenges and possibilities it presents for researchers. The Study Smart Project will then be introduced which has promoted staff and student AI literacy across the University and was funded by the Learning Enhancement and Innovation Fund at UoN (2023-2024). The considerations and processes that have been undertaken to enable the ethical use of Chat GPT in qualitative data analysis as part of the project will then be shared. The presentation will provide a blueprint for future research and analysis relating to the ethical use of GAI tools at UoN- this was one of the conditions set by UoN's Research and Ethics Committee when approving the data analysis.

## **Cross collaboration in the creative digital space**

*David Nicholls, Lewis Sanderson, Rob Kavanagh*

Showing an example of collaboration between different creative fields such as games design, art, programming, animation, and music. The objective is to create an example of working with different creative disciplines and showcase working methods as a final product. The format for this artefact will be both be a arcade cabinet game as well as a live demonstration of the professional development pipeline.

## **FAST Early Career Researcher Pecha Kucha Showcase**

*Declan Ryan, Emmeline Child*

FAST encompasses diverse subject areas with many areas of common societal interest including the United Nation sustainability development goals (SDGs). We recognise the opportunities that we have, to work across interdisciplinary boundaries. We bridge diverse disciplines and subject areas which allows us to make the most of our knowledge and skills, whilst also continuing to recognise and develop subject-specific research and enterprise with the overall aim of further developing an inclusive, interdisciplinary research community in which research is important and innovation is at the heart of what we do. This Pecha Kucha event will showcase the work of FASTs Early Career Researchers and provide an opportunity to meet everyone in the Early Career community.

## **Roundtable: Developing research capacity, capability, and collaboration within Northamptonshire's unitary authorities**

*Declan Ryan, John Horton, Jackie Campbell, Tracey Redwood, Jacqueline Parkes, Puremeluan Major, Onyinye Ndefo, Chloe Gay, Shirely Plenderleith*

A shift to a place-based approach and evidence-informed interventions has been the focus of local governments across England to tackle growing health inequalities, which is evidenced by NIHRs £55million investment into Health Determinants Research Collaborations. UON and WNC came close to securing this funding in 2023, and now there is a continued energy to determine how UON, WNC, and NNC can continue their planned work. This roundtable will provide a 12-month reflection point to review the progress we have made as a partnership, identify where gaps exist, and action plan for the short and long-term. Both academics and council officers will be in attendance to discuss this topic,

which will help ensure the university's research helps to tackle local and regional health inequalities, while enhancing the capability and capacity for council officers to undertake and utilise research.

## **Fashioning Waste**

*Emmeline Child*

Textile waste is a growing issue with increased consumption rates putting pressure on current end of life strategies of global landfill and incineration. Despite design methods being seen in the industry, the reality is a niche sector where SME's predominantly upcycle, resulting in only 1-2% of this waste stream being recycled into new textiles (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2017).

Using design as an approach, the presentation explores methods for Design for Whole Product Remanufacture (DfWPRem) across post- and pre-consumer textile waste to understand whether areas of greater scale can be achieved. This research draws from an industry and academic perspective, to define where the issues are, guided by the methodological framework to deliver possible alternative design solutions to the current waste streams. The resulting 'Design for WPRem Framework' proposes way to extend the product life through design strategies, to support in the transition to a circular economy.

## **Filipino Care Worker Identity: Exploring Care in the Lens of Filipino Values in UK Care Homes**

*Ezekiel Coronacion*

Nearly a quarter of the UK adult social care workforce are led by Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnicities (BAME). Despite that, Asians, specifically Filipinos, have little to no visibility in care research. In this study, Filipino care workers in UK are observed to converge spirituality, communal identity, and migration-driven motivations to shape their care delivery practices. This study employed an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) to delve into their lived experiences. Through semi-structured interviews, three main themes were identified: utilization of spirituality as a stress mediator, fostering deep relational ties through the "kapwa" model of shared identity, and navigating the demands of migration for familial motives. These insights not only shed light on Filipino care but also highlight the eclectic implications for culturally competent care delivery in a multicultural healthcare setting.

## **Self-referentiality of modern science: faith in research and distrust in science**

*Federico Farini*

What makes the economic value or price of a product? The quality of the product itself, or what the market says it is worth? How can law understand the legal meaning or validity of norms, rulings and contracts without relying on existing (i.e., already accepted and published) norms or rulings? All social systems can only operate self-referentially. The same is true for the social system of science: scientists must refer to existing publications and connect to research that has already been conducted, so that science becomes oriented to the self-proclaimed 'accumulation of scientific knowledge. By skilfully relating theories to methodologically controlled observations, truth claims can be advanced and consecutively evaluated by academic colleagues through formal peer review. Self-referentiality secures the differentiation of science from other social systems, such as religion. However, this presentation argues that the self-referential nature of science has left to the public only external references for trust in research (trust in expertise). Trust in expertise is divisive: it may morph into faith in research, but it can also feed distrust in scientific epistemology and motivations. The coexistence of faith in research and distrust in science is discussed as intrinsic to modernity.

## **Exploring the impact of limb lengthening cosmetic surgery in patients two years after the intervention: a thematic analysis**

*Ferdinando Salamino*

Limb lengthening surgery is a means for people to pursue a growth that can range from minimal correction (1-2 cm, sometimes in one leg to correct dysfunctional dysmetria) to significant or even extreme correction (up to 10 cm for single intervention, more often requested for aesthetic purposes). The study will focus on patients requesting the surgery due to a body dissatisfaction, focusing on their perception of the process and the change occurred. A sample of 10 patients will be presented, data will be collected through qualitative interview and analyzed using Reflexive Thematic Analysis.

At the moment, the research is in progress, at the stage of data analysis.

## **Interweaving Expertise: Uniting Disciplines for Innovative Research**

*Frank Alparslan*

In today's rapidly evolving research landscape, the integration of diverse disciplines stands as a pivotal strategy for fostering innovation and addressing complex challenges. This Pecha Kucha presentation, titled "Interweaving Expertise: Uniting Disciplines for Innovative Research," will highlight the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration in driving scientific and societal progress. Through a series of engaging slides, the presentation will explore historical and current trends in interdisciplinary research, identify barriers to collaboration, and offer strategies for overcoming these challenges. By showcasing successful case studies and emphasizing the role of educational and institutional adaptation, the presentation will advocate for a research culture that embraces diversity in expertise, culture, and methodology to enhance problem-solving capabilities and creativity. This approach will not only enrich the research community but also significantly contribute to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions for global issues.

## **Integrating Horizons: Enhancing Aviation through Multi-Disciplinary Research**

*Frank Alparslan*

In this presentation, we will explore the role of cross-disciplinary research in advancing the aviation sector. The integration of diverse fields such as engineering, computer science, human factors, and environmental science can lead to ground-breaking innovations that enhance safety, efficiency, and sustainability within the industry. By examining various case studies, we demonstrate how collaborative efforts have resolved complex challenges, leading to significant technological and operational advancements. This talk will highlight the benefits and methods of fostering an inclusive research environment where different perspectives and expertise converge to create robust solutions. The goal is to showcase how embracing interdisciplinary approaches within aviation can drive progress and adaptability in a rapidly evolving global landscape. This presentation aligns with the broader conference theme by illustrating practical outcomes and strategic insights from adopting a cross-disciplinary research culture in aviation.

## **Cross discipline evidence: How Design and Business creatively collaborate to enhance enterprise and social innovation**

*Friedemann Schaber, Rebecca Fakoussa*

The Design and Business cross-faculty approach converges elements of research, business planning, experimentation, and prototyping. Collaborations, across a series of different aspects, over the last 3 years have resulted in using innovative techniques to tackle Sustainable Development Goals and environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) issues. Our interdisciplinary team from the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL), and the Faculty of Art, Science and Technology (FAST) were able to incorporate entrepreneurship skills, marketing elements as well as a fusion of research methods (Qualitative including User Research with Focus Group and Quantitative Methods) from FBL as well as FAST's extensive experience in Design Thinking, Rapid Ethnography (REAP), Prototyping and Data Visualisation to create an unique cross-faculty experience for both staff and students. The result has been that concepts have been moved to tangible solutions for research as well as student projects. Outcomes are collaborative research projects, app prototypes, proof of concepts and student interactions, demonstrating our commitment to sustainability as well as supporting aspiration, creating opportunities, and delivering impact.

## **Interdisciplinarity and inter-faculty collaboration: skill sharing in Podiatry, Engineering and Product Design to advance didactics, innovation and research opportunities in healthcare**

*Friedemann Schaber*

Innovation and research in healthcare is often limited by access to skill sets and equipment; undergraduate environments provide a prime opportunity to foster creativity and leverage skill sets and equipment across an institution; that is unlikely to be available within typical healthcare settings. The expertise of the Product Design Programme ranges from user centred design methods, material and processes know-how to rapid prototyping, complimented by analytical materials science and simulation capability within Engineering. Thus, staff and students are well placed to contribute and able to engage in professional specific cases – but what does this collaboration with the University's Podiatry Clinic look like and how can we facilitate it?

This presentation showcases our skill sharing approach that tested the value of staff and student visits to course lab spaces, subject specific expertise and input to projects, aligned to existing module assessments and delivery.



## **Moving beyond words: using photovoice to explore the experience of international students coming to study at UON**

*Gillian Siddall*

Library research often focuses on dominant white, western voices and rarely includes the views and experiences of those from diverse backgrounds (Roberts, 2021; Tewell, 2019). Increasing numbers of international students are entering UK postgraduate (PG) education. There is little research exploring their information literacy practice or transition into UK PG study (Murphy & Tilley, 2019). However, literature recognises that PG students are a diverse group (Murphy & Tilley, 2019) that bring various cultural and social practices into the classroom (Hicks & Lloyd, 2016). Those working with international students in Higher Education (HE) have the opportunity to collaborate and co-create information that can enhance both the staff and student experience (Mittelmeier, Lomer, Al Furqani, & Huang, 2022).

The workshop will explore the use of photovoice to include the diverse perspective of international students. As a creative research method participatory photography empowers the students to present their experience in a visual way and acts as a catalyst for deeper discussion. The progress, findings, and lessons learnt from the research so far will be presented.

This hands-on workshop will also allow attendees to try some of the visual literacy activities that underpin the photovoice method and explore how this method could facilitate different perspectives on research questions.

Funded by the AHRC-RLUK Professional Practice Fellowship Scheme for research and academic libraries.

## **Blueprints for Success: Building Effective Learning Environments for Employability**

*Gosia Plotka, Al-Amin Dabo*

Recent educational shifts driven by globalisation have significantly diversified the UK's student population, compounded by changes in immigration law. This demographic challenges outdated 20th-century educational methods that often fail to address today's diverse learning needs. Research by Olo and colleagues (2021) as well as Nieminen (2022)

emphasises the importance of building effective learning environments to enhance employability, engagement, and recognition of individual differences.

Authentic assessment strategies that involve applying knowledge in real-life scenarios, fostering essential skills such as critical thinking and innovation (Villarroel et al., 2018), advocated since the 1990s, aim to address these demands by transitioning from SMART to VASCULAR learning outcomes (Race, 2020).

In this presentation we will discuss designing curricula that allow students to reach their full potential and how to effectively assess their practical experience, enabling global success. By removing systemic barriers and standardising evaluation criteria, we aim to foster a fair and inclusive educational environment.

### **The impact of STEM Education: Improving teachers' and trainee teachers' self-efficacy in teaching STEM subjects in primary schools**

*Helen Tiplady, Sarah Cave, Josephine Chen-Wilson and Kimberley Hill*

This cross-disciplinary, student-led URB@N project investigated trainee teachers' and teachers' self-efficacy and training needs in teaching STEM subjects within Primary Schools (KS1 & KS2). Our research involved interviews with Year 3 ITT students, to discuss how trainee teachers feel about teaching STEM, what they need to teach STEM effectively and what hopes they have for their future teaching careers. We also interviewed qualified teachers, exploring their self-efficacy in teaching STEM in school, their thoughts on STEM CPD provisions and barriers and facilitators to pupils' STEM learning in school. This presentation will provide an overview of preliminary findings from this work, including how findings are informing future teacher CPD, training and outreach provision, while providing a greater understanding of student needs within STEM learning. Implications for practice and future research will be discussed, including the benefits of research like this which fosters inter-disciplinary collaboration and enhances the student voice.

### **The limitless potential of a knobbly stick!**

*Helen Tiplady, Tanya Richardson, Karen Woolley, Emma Whewell*

Research is a creative and iterative process which involves problem solving and personal development. This workshop will take an innovative approach to research by using journey sticks to articulate product and process. There exists a plethora of evidence that

documents the benefits of learning outdoors; being improvements on physical development (BERA/TACTYC, 2014; Fjørtoft, 2004), creativity (Knight, 2011; Sutterby and Frost, 2006), language development (Richardson, 2014; Richardson and Murray, 2016) and social development (Waite and Pratt, 2013). By using outdoor learning spaces, we aim to develop a space for reflection where new perspectives on research process can be discovered, shared and discussed. By working with the natural environment, natural resources, and other researchers you will be supported and encouraged to consider how creativity forms an essential part of the research process. This workshop will invite delegates to engage with co creating resources and knowledge that allows them to consider a range of perspectives in research.

### **Understanding how societal and organisational barriers affects enactment of performance management: A Nigerian Public Health Narrative**

*Jean Egbegi*

This paper presents a narrative of how societal and organisational barriers affect Performance Management (PM) in the Nigerian public health sector following the call on understanding the positionality of place in qualitative Human Resource Development (HRD) practice and research studies to develop knowledge within the field further (Kuchinke et al., 2022; Barefield and Crocco, 2023). The societal and organisational barriers affecting enactment of performance management in a Nigerian public health context is discussed in the construct of institutional theory construct - regulative, normative and cultural-cognitive (Scott, 2005).

The adopted methodology was an interpretivist philosophy using a narrative approach and secondary data was analysed thematically using NVivo.

The study broadens the significance of institutional theory as a theoretical underpinning within performance management studies, an aspect of HRD and further explores the notion of positionality of place in qualitative HRD studies.

### **An exploration of the motivations of black African women working within the NHS during the Covid-19 pandemic**

*Josephine Benefo-Agyei*

This study investigates the personal motivations of Black African women working within the NHS during the Covid-19 pandemic, building upon recent research highlighting the pandemic's impact on black and minority ethnic groups (Blanchard, 2020). The study aims

to achieve three objectives: Firstly, to understand the experiences of these women, including the personal sacrifices, resilience, and sense of purpose they exhibit while working during the pandemic. Secondly, to explore whether the challenges posed by the pandemic have influenced their attitudes and perspectives towards their roles within the healthcare sector. Lastly, the study seeks to identify overarching themes that categorize the various types of motivations guiding the actions and decisions of these women in healthcare provision during this challenging period. Utilizing qualitative inquiry, the research aims to provide insight into the nuanced aspects of motivation within the context of pandemic-induced challenges and the healthcare profession.

### **Making Collaborative Experiential Learning work**

*Kate Ironside*

Collaborative experiential events can lead to deep learning and considerable employability benefits.

But what's the most effective way to plan and design such events?

This paper will set out four elements essential to success:

- Student engagement
- Clear mapping of relevant learning outcomes
- Employability benefits
- And deliverability.

It will draw on 12 years' experience organising such events both locally within UON, nationally and internationally.

### **An Introduction to the Northampton Advanced Imaging Facility (NAIF)**

*Lewis Collins*

UON has a suite of specialised scientific imaging equipment at its disposal. For some time, it has been an ambition to consolidate the equipment and expertise to establish a core advanced imaging facility at Northampton (NAIF). Recent staff appointments and complementary external partnerships have improved the depth of knowledge and skills in this area, and significant investment in new equipment has meant that these plans are closer to actualisation. In this talk, I will introduce the equipment in the facility, the people

involved and our external partners. I will present some of the data already being generated using our newest equipment which includes cancer research and rare disease drug development but importantly also highlight the relevance and applicability of NAIF across the life, environmental, material, computer and engineering sciences.

## **CONNECTIONS: Arts and Humanities' Contribution to Research, Knowledge Production, and Knowledge Exchange**

*Lorna Jowett*

Rhetoric valorising STEM subject areas above all others across all levels of education is skewing perceptions of Arts and Humanities. A number of UK universities have axed whole departments in AHSS or SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy/ Environment) areas in response. Yet, in 2020 the British Academy noted that 8 of the 10 fastest growing sectors in the UK employ more AHSS graduates than those from other disciplines and 6 of these 8 sectors draw more than 2/3 of graduate workers from AHSS (British Academy 2020). Despite core research funding being only 3.31% of the total United Kingdom Research & Innovation (UKRI) budget' (British Academy 2024), the UK is world-leading in SHAPE research. During, and after, the global pandemic SHAPE skills such as working collaboratively, critically, and imaginatively, with a global and transhistorical perspective became vital. SHAPE subject training provides 'the ability to work in sophisticated ways with language, text and written information that is invaluable for the majority of professions in an information-based economy' (Thain et al, 2023). This panel brings together a range of researchers at all levels from areas across UON to discuss how multi-disciplinary perspectives are necessary to produce maximum impact for research: tackling today's global challenges.

## **The Underrepresentation of Women in Esports Leadership Positions: Exploring the Barriers and Facilitating Factors**

*Lucy Zhu*

Although women remain underrepresented in all facets of esports leadership (e.g., executive organisational and coaching positions), few empirical studies have explored the underrepresentation issue (Piggott et al., 2022; Rogstad 2022; Darvin et al., 2021). Offering new theoretical and empirical insights, this project aims to explore the perceived barriers to, and facilitating factors for, female representation in esports leadership positions.

Adopting a qualitative research approach, this study will interview female esports leaders. Advancing current understanding of the underrepresentation of women in esports, this research utilises ecological systems theory to capture individual (micro), organisational (meso), and sociocultural (macro) factors that influence an individual's career trajectory (LaVoi and Dutove 2012). The findings will inform a conceptual, multi-level model which captures the range of barriers and facilitators. Practical implications for esports organisations will also be recommended to enhance the representation of women in esports leadership.

### **Using Video Observation to Investigate the Opportunities offered by Dance for Personal Development and Inclusion of Children Experiencing Complex Needs**

*Maitreyee Buragohain*

My PhD study explores how dance provides opportunities for the personal development of Children Experiencing Complex Needs (CECN) as a step towards inclusion. It uses video observations as one of the data collection methods to collect data from dance lessons conducted at two schools, a large SEN school and a specialist dance school for individuals experiencing SEND. Pupils, parents and teachers associated with these two schools participated in this study. The utilisation of video observation as a data collection method in school settings posed numerous challenges throughout the research process. In this presentation, I would like to talk about the use of videos and the challenges encountered.

### **Well-being Past and Present: Developing Multi-disciplinary Perspectives**

*Mark Rothery*

In 2023 the Centre for Historical Studies, in collaboration with their external stakeholders in the local community, held a conference on the history and contemporary practice of well-being. The presenters were drawn from history, psychology, heritage studies and curatorial practice. The conference and the resulting publication (due out in 2025) illustrate the potential that multiple perspectives on single issues have in creating knowledge. We discussed a range of different definitions and experiences of well-being, across time and in a variety of contexts and found lots of areas of agreement on some general principles concerning this amorphous term. This paper explains the process of constructing this project and some of the challenges we faced in developing the project.

## **Developing and Testing a Temporary Fire Barrier System for Lift Shafts: CFD Simulations and Prototype Evaluation**

*Mateusz Gizicki*

Positioning the lift well within a fire-protected zone in many buildings is ideal but not always feasible. Consequently, new lifts must meet the fire resistance standards prescribed for the duration that aligns with the building's fire rating, as mandated by both national and international regulations. These regulations, however, do not cover scenarios encountered during lift installation or servicing when the lift shaft often remains partly or fully open. This exposed entrance significantly increases fire risk. This paper introduces a novel temporary solution designed to mitigate this risk by adhering to existing design standards, regulations, and fire resistance testing protocols. A prototype of the temporary fire barrier was developed and successfully passed fire testing. Using flow simulation and computational fluid dynamics software, the study confirms the feasibility of this innovative solution. Although the prototype shows promise, further testing and full certification are needed before it can be released as a final, commercially viable product.

## **TechDems Can Do Research Too!**

*Michael Cauchi*

Michael has been employed as a Technician Demonstrator in Computing at UON for over two years. Michael will be presenting case studies of the key research projects he has contributed to during his previous academic and industry roles. These include biomedical applications that investigated non-invasive laboratory techniques in conjunction with machine learning to diagnose diseases (e.g. Crohn's) and cancers (e.g. bladder), false colour mapping to enhance biomedical images, and social interventions to promote the uptake of physics subjects by female students. As Michael is Technical Lead for the Recognition strand of the Technician Commitment, he is keen to encourage collaborative working alongside UON academics. This will make better use of Technician Demonstrator expertise contributing to research projects and fostering co-authorship between Technicians and academic staff on both future grant applications and research publications.

## **How can parents be supported through the process of withdrawing life sustaining treatment from their critically ill baby?**

*Nicola Smithers*

This paper presents findings from a study which aimed to understand the experience of parents in relation to decisions to withdraw life-sustaining treatment (LST) from their baby. Eight parents who had been involved in decisions of this nature were recruited through the Charities Bliss and Sands. During the approximately hour-long interviews, parents talked about what had made their decision easier or more challenging as well as the longer-term impact of their experiences.

Once the decision was made to withdraw LST, parents recounted what made this part of their journey easier or more challenging. They discussed what was important to them including feeling like a parent and how they wanted to say goodbye to their baby. Their reflections were underpinned by the medical team and the role they played in preparing parents for this stage.

The findings presented here will emphasise the importance of a 'good' experience for parents that is underpinned by appropriate communication and a compassionate medical team that is intuitive to their individual needs.

## **Unveiling the Challenges and Coping Strategies among Students of African Descent at a Post-1992 University in England**

*Patrice Seuwou*

This study explores the challenges facing African-descent students in UK higher education (HE), aiming to promote social mobility and justice. Despite efforts to widen participation, these students continue to underperform compared to their white counterparts. The research, conducted at a post-1992 English university, employs Critical Race Theory, intersectionality, Bourdieu's tools and Yosso's Community Cultural Wealth Model to examine their experiences. Findings reveal systemic prejudice and various hurdles including psychological, intellectual, and financial issues. International students face additional barriers such as language difficulties and cultural isolation. Recommendations include adopting inclusive teaching methods and addressing systemic discrimination to ensure fair access and promote the achievement of underprivileged groups. The study's contribution lies in its comprehensive examination of African-descent students' holistic experiences, including socio-cultural, learning, financial challenges, and coping strategies, highlighting the resilience and development of third culture identity.



## **The Health, Education and Behaviour Change (HEBC) showcase**

*Rachel Maunder*

The Health, Education and Behaviour Change (HEBC) Research Theme at The University of Northampton sits within the Centre for Psychological and Sociological Sciences (CPSS) and draws upon cross-disciplinary expertise from researchers within the Faculty of Health, Education and Society.

Members of HEBC work to understand behaviour change and address real world problems in the areas of health and education. HEBC researchers are not only inter-disciplinary, but use a range of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods approaches to conduct applied research and advance existing knowledge within this area.

The current roundtable symposium aims to showcase some of the valuable work done members within this research theme who are conducting cutting-edge research in the area of behaviour change. Four papers will be presented, with a brief introduction about HEBC by the stream chairs, followed by a discussion of the key contributions and impact of this work.

The presentations will include:

Dr Rachel Maunder (HEBC Co-lead), talking about ""Supporting children to develop caring friendships in primary school""

Dr Zhimin He, talking about ""Using mHealth (Mobile Health) in Mental Health""

Dr Nicholas Thompson, talking about ""Scalable Transdiagnostic Early Assessment of Mental Health (STREAM): Developing a Tablet-Based App to Assess Early Child Development in Low-Resource Settings""

Valentina Diaconu (PGR), talking about ""Exploring the Connection Between Children's Social Status, Peer Relations, and Teacher Gaze in Real Time Interactions""

## **Applying a shadowing methodology to leadership in Early Childhood**

*Rebecca Humphreys*

This research aims to propose, and implement, a leadership model for the Early Childhood sector, challenging the top-down, hierarchical approaches to leadership (Waniganayake et al., 2012; Hughes et al., 2023). Recent research has identified that successful leadership in Early Childhood often combines compassion, empathy, and collaboration between

practitioners and stakeholders (Tomkins, 2020; Wilson, 2020). Practitioners who have drawn on their experiences, form and deploy intellectual and emotional responses to support other practitioners (James et al., 2021). The proposed model focuses on collaboration and autonomy, allowing everyone within the Early Childhood setting to have elements of leadership and influence over policies, practices, and provision, as a participatory model (Nuttall and Thomas, 2015) whilst aiming to improve outcomes for children', by promoting a relational approach and professionalizing practitioners in society (Sheridan et al., 2022; Penn, 2019) drawing upon my position as an Operations Director. This research will apply a shadowing methodology (Bøe et al., 2017; Hughes et al., 2023), working with a variety of practitioners, holding different positions, within Early Childhood PVI settings.

## **Sharing stories of wellbeing**

*Sally Sharp*

The literature review established a longstanding and sustained interest in postgraduate researcher's (PGR) wellbeing (Byrom et al., 2020). Inspired by Antonovsky's (1996) salutogenic approach, PGRs with a sense of wellbeing were invited to share their stories. Using narrative inquiry, thirteen virtual interviews were conducted. Through reflexive thematic analysis themes helped to organise what the participants did for their wellbeing. Through dialogical narrative analysis, three narratives emphasized why they did it. Metaphor analysis helped to explain how the participants were thinking and providing insight into their conceptual understanding (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). Participants demonstrated agency, described wellbeing holistically and responded dynamically. Wellbeing was articulated as balancing; seismic shifts and tiny tweaks spanning across their whole lives. Sharing stories of wellbeing impacted positively on wellbeing for the listener and storyteller. Recommendations: to resist framing wellbeing as a deficit and empower PGRs to share stories of wellbeing using a health promotion approach.

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## **Trade liberalisation causes food insecurity: Evidence from a sample of developing countries**

*Shawky Nasser*

Using a panel of data relative to 32 developing countries over the period 2015-2020, the empirical results of this paper show that trade liberalisation is positively associated with food insecurity. Specifically, countries that have had their trade liberalised longer tend to have more people with severe food insecurity. This result is strongly significant and consistent across specifications.

## **Multi-disciplinary approaches supporting the sustainability of coastal communities**

*Sian Davies-Vollum, Deb Raha*

Coastal communities across the globe are faced with multifaceted and interconnected challenges that threaten their sustainability. In coastal communities of the Global South, the challenges presented by climate change compete with environmental, social, and economic needs. Rapid growth of coastal communities exacerbates challenges and reinforces the need for effective governance that takes a human-centred approach. Human-centred coastal governance utilises multidisciplinary knowledge and multi-institutional partnerships to engage with stakeholders and build participatory approaches. Here we present a framework founded on these approaches that can inform the co-creation of coastal management strategies that meet the interconnected human and environmental needs of coastal communities in the Global South.

## **Roundtable: building multi-disciplinary connections between research centres**

*Sian Davies-Vollum*

Solving complex problems requires knowledge and perspectives that cut across disciplinary boundaries. Research calls are increasingly reflecting this, requiring that projects integrate input from multiple disciplines. This panel will explore how the research centres across UON can work together more effectively to support cross-disciplinary research. We will discuss ways to break down disciplinary boundaries, encourage co-working between centres and explore areas of potential collaboration. All are welcome to participate with Centre leads particularly encouraged to attend.

## **Cerberus-View at NAIF: Exploring the Microscopic Realm with Triple-Headed Microscopes**

*Sonika Divakar, Lee Machado & Lewis Collins*

The Northampton Advanced Imaging Facility (NAIF) represents a new development bringing together specialist scientific equipment and knowledge for advanced imaging and data analysis. We will highlight a new addition to the NAIF, our triple-headed pathology microscope, recently acquired for research and knowledge exchange at UON and will showcase how this is being used in our ongoing research in cancer biology. This research 'artefact' offers an insight into the imaging technology now available at UON and its potential applicability across various life, environmental and material science disciplines.

## **Collaborative studies: a gene that links rare disease and cancer!**

*Sonika Divakar, Lee Machado*

The Anthony/Machado research teams at UON have a joint interest in understanding the functions of one of the largest human genes, the Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) gene. We have highlighted an intriguing connection between the DMD gene and cancer and have several ongoing projects that aim to understand the underlying biology. Here, novel data collected by our team on several cancer types will be discussed. This presentation will highlight the potential role of the DMD gene in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, glioma and ongoing work in sarcoma and what this might mean for diagnosis, treatment and management decisions.

## **EFL students' language learning in higher education in Vietnam: the potentials and challenges of AI-based technologies**

*Van Anh Nguyen*

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based technologies have emerged as transformative tools in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education. This study investigates the potentials and challenges of AI-based technologies in EFL teaching and learning within the Vietnamese tertiary education landscape. The focus is on discerning the perceptions of both educators and students towards the utilization of AI-based technologies in enhancing students' writing competence. The study employs a mixed-methods approach in a public university

in Central Vietnam, integrating a qualitative exploration of EFL teachers' perspectives through semi-structured interviews, and a quantitative investigation of EFL students' perceptions using questionnaire-based surveys.

## **Benefits of Leveraging Cross-Disciplinary Research in Sustainable National health service**

*Vincent Adegoke*

**Aim:** This abstract aims to elucidate the benefits of cross-disciplinary research in fostering sustainability within the National Health Service (NHS). By synthesizing insights from diverse fields, cross-disciplinary research endeavours to enhance healthcare delivery, resource management, and overall sustainability of the NHS.

**Problem:** The NHS faces a myriad of challenges including escalating healthcare costs, increasing demand for services, and health inequalities. Conventional approaches often struggle to address these multifaceted issues adequately, necessitating a shift towards cross-disciplinary research. However, realizing the benefits of such collaboration within the context of the NHS requires overcoming barriers such as siloed disciplines, funding constraints, intellectual property issues, and institutional inertia.

**Methodology:** This abstract employs a mixed-method approach, incorporating literature review and analysis to comprehensively explore the benefits of cross-disciplinary research in the NHS. The literature review surveys existing scholarship on interdisciplinary collaboration and healthcare sustainability, identifying key themes and insights. Additionally, case studies provide empirical evidence and firsthand perspectives on the impact of cross-disciplinary research in the NHS.

**Conclusion:** Cross-disciplinary research offers significant advantages for fostering sustainability within the NHS. By fostering innovation, efficiency, health equity, and technological advancement, cross-disciplinary collaboration enables the development of comprehensive solutions to address the complex challenges facing healthcare providers. Overcoming barriers to interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting a culture of cross-disciplinary research are essential for realizing the full potential of such approaches within the NHS. Embracing cross-disciplinary research is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of healthcare systems like the NHS in delivering high-quality care to patients while optimizing resource utilization and promoting health equity. It can harness the transformative power of such collaboration to address the most pressing challenges of our time that requires spontaneous and ethical solutions.

# UON Annual Research Conference 2024



## STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY

**Many thanks to all our speakers, chairs and facilitators  
for taking part in this event.**

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