

Postgraduate Researcher Initiatives 2008-09

Grants for activities in 2008-09 were awarded to:

Round 1 (closing date 26th November 2008)

Jennifer Whitney ENCAP and Anindya Raychaudhuri ENCAP: to organise an Annual Lecture, Seminars and Journal on the theme of 'Assuming Gender'.

Erin Dooley OPTOM: for 'PostGrad@CITER' welcome and lecture events - an interdisciplinary, student-led, research group.

Anne Kirtley BIOSI and Ellen Murphy BIOSI: to set up a seminar series in the form of a Neuroscience Cafe.

Round 2 (closing date 13th March 2009)

Hossein Hassani (MATHS) and Gareth Howell (MATHS): for a project on 'Modern Interdisciplinary Applications of Powerful Techniques in Statistics'

Ian Moore (ENGIN) and Jacqueline Platt (BIOSI): to set up a 'Severn Tidal Power Project Forum'

Simon Williams (SOCSI) and Christina Demski (PSYCH): to organise a deliberative conference/workshop on 'Public Participation in Science, Technology and Risk Policy'

Gabriella Alberti (SOCSI) and Poppy Nicol (CPLAN): to organise themed workshops on 'The Shifting Boundaries of Citizenship: Mobility, Spatiality, Agency'

Comments from 2008/09 Project Leaders

Assuming Gender

In October 2009 we welcomed Professor Sara Ahmed, Professor in Race and Cultural Studies, Department of Media & Communications, Goldsmiths College, University of London, to give our inaugural annual lecture.

All the members of our steering committee are PGRs and the experience has been invaluable to all of us.

We have now established our new journal called Assuming Gender. The first issue is live and freely available from our website: <http://gender.cardiff.ac.uk> We now have a multi-platform internet presence - including accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo and Orkut, as well as our own website and links from numerous other websites and blogs.

PostGrad@CITER

The overall aim of the funding was to stage an event which focussed on the ethos of interdisciplinary and 'joined up' thinking and involved a number of schools across the

university. Following careful consultation, our student-led board decided on the theme of 'Music and Medicine'.

The event provided us an opportunity to network with speakers from various universities and professional bodies. We corresponded with musicians and performers, engineers, music therapists, medical professionals and social scientists. Overall, the interest and feedback for our event choice was extremely positive.

The funding provided by the Graduate Schools was invaluable in allowing us to advertise PostGrad@CITER and organise an event that crossed disciplines and brought people together for networking and sharing ideas. (A second PostGrad@CITER event will take place in December 2010)

Neuroscience Café

All four science cafés were very successful, with positive feedback from invited speakers as well as an attendance reaching between 50 and 80 attendees per café... and would not have been able to take place without the support from the Graduate Schools.

We were very pleased with the wide range of academic backgrounds of speakers and attendees, as well as the science cafés' abilities to attract non-academic participants from within the University. We believe this has not only been educational for everyone involved in the events but also enriched the talks by enabling the topics to be addressed from many different views in a relaxed atmosphere.

Modern Disciplinary Applications of Powerful Techniques in Statistics

The workshop went really well. We were really impressed by the number of attendants and their feedback; almost 25 people attended from different Schools (from Engineering to Medicine, and from Optometry to Economics) with various levels from postgraduate student to Professor.

Severn Tidal Power Project Forum

The School seminar events successfully achieved the principal objectives, to 'bring together a wide cohort of students to disseminate expertise and discuss ideas regarding the proposed tidal power project in the Severn Estuary.' Specific activities undertaken included; three monthly half-day seminar/workshops; guest academic speakers; boat trip on the Severn Estuary to view potential tidal energy sites and consider their environmental implications.

Public Participation in Science, Technology and Risk

This deliberative conference aimed to discuss the ways in which interdisciplinary research can contribute to an understanding of existing forms of 'public engagement' *and* to the creation of new processes of 'public engagement', for both academics and policy audiences. All the stated objectives were successfully met.

There was a strong interdisciplinary flavour to the event, with eight different academic Schools or departments from Cardiff University - as well as various departments from other universities - being represented amongst those attending as delegates.

We have developed first-hand experience of all aspects of the organisation and delivery of an academic conference. This will prove invaluable for our future careers, whether or not they lie within academia.

The Shifting Boundaries of Citizenship: Mobility, Spatiality, Agency

The workshop was very successful in terms of attendance and participation with more than 40 students and members of research and academic staff joining throughout the day... primarily from SOCSI, CPLAN, CARBS and large groups of international students from the Seafarers' International Research Centre and the Global Economy Postgraduate Research Group. Mutations of citizenship in relation to issues of mobility, class, community, belonging and political agency under processes of globalisation were discussed.

The discussion stimulated new projects that will further develop issues around changes in work, politics, international migration and subjectivity, stressing the importance of developing these debates across different disciplines.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the above projects should email GraduateSchools@cf.ac.uk