

## Spotlight on Social Sciences 2010 - Report

The Spotlight on Social Sciences conference 2010 took place on 27th May 2010 in the Glamorgan building. The conference had grown since the previous year, with talks being given in two different lecture theatres and a broad selection of poster presentations taking place.

The aim of Spotlight is to give postgraduates a chance to present their research and ideas in a supportive environment (although a few early-career research staff also presented at the conference). Speakers came not only from schools such as social science and psychology, but also from less obvious sources such as the schools of medicine and engineering; this allowed for an interesting mix of methods and topics to be presented.

Following an enthusiastic introduction to the event by Professor Keith Whitfield, the keynote speaker, Dr Rob Evans, gave an engaging talk entitled "Walking the Talk: Knowledge and Language in Social Science", in which he discussed issues ranging from the Turing test (familiar to those from a cognitive science/philosophy of mind background) to the depth which anthropological researchers can immerse themselves in the cultures they study.

To give a sample of some of the topics dealt with, Spotlight 2010 saw talks on out-of-hours primary care, female serial killers and Cardiff's indie music scene, while posters highlighted research on environmentally friendly behaviour among consumers and discourse around traveller accommodation.

Following the last delegate talk, Dr Nicola Weston gave a brief talk outlining various opportunities and sources of funding for one's career following a postgraduate degree. At the wine reception, the judges praised the presenters for the generally high standard of talks and posters. The winners for best talk were Emilie Crossley for "Gap year volunteers: a longitudinal psychosocial approach" and Rhiannon Evans for "Boys being boys? Exploring relationships within the student assistance programme". The winners for best poster were Ilona Johnson for "Caring emotions? Mouth care for dependent adults" and Natasha Kalebic for "Reproductive decision making".

Delegates gave very positive feedback on the conference, describing it as "interesting", "diverse", "a good introduction to conferences and conference proceedings" and a "good opportunity to network and develop presentation skills". It is hoped that Spotlight 2011 will be even bigger and better than its predecessor.