



EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN SEEKING ASYLUM IN LEEDS BROUGHT TO LIFE IN NEW EXHIBITION

The [Asylum in Art](#) photo and composite audio exhibition took place on 13-15 October at the Leeds Church Institute. Directed by Dr Maria De Angelis and funded by the [Centre for Applied Social Research](#), it brought to life the experiences of women seeking asylum in Leeds.

The exhibition consisted of eleven photos taken by Jeremy Abrahams and a 'composite' audio narrating women's experiences. It sought to shine a light on life inside a British Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) and provided an opportunity to hear what women seeking asylum in the city of Leeds have to say about their detention and community experiences, whilst visualising them in photography.



The photo-voice method captures the tension between the institutional IRC (tasked with detaining & deporting those without papers) and the gendered, cultural, human face of detainees hidden away inside it. It reflects key narratives across the detention experience: a lack of institutional legitimacy; its modern slavery typology; its carceral practices; its netting of poor people of colour and counter-conduct and belonging, both within & beyond IRC walls.

STUDENTS REVIEW UNSOLVED MISSING PERSONS CASES

This semester, Criminology students have been reviewing investigations into people who have been missing for several years. Launched by Kirsty Bennett, Lecturer in Criminology, the cold case unit at LBU is helping victims' families by potentially identifying new lines of enquiry. She asserts that "it's really important to showcase that we should not forget these cases and we owe it to the victim's families to do something".

Working alongside Locate International - a Community Interest Company set up to help the families of missing people - students are looking for opportunities to progress police investigations by reviewing long-term unsolved missing person cases. This is providing them with an

opportunity to put into practice what they are taught in class and learn additional investigative skills.



Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children are reported missing to the police each year, many of which garner media attention. The UK National Crime Agency statistics for 2018/2019 show in England and

Wales that there was a total of 320,715 reported missing incidents. LBU will essentially act as a hub for Yorkshire, also attracting specialists from their local communities to work in collaboration with students and Locate International to progress the cold cases.

PROFESSOR BRENDAN GOUGH NAMED IN TOP 2% OF SCIENTISTS

Professor Brendan Gough, Director of Research for Psychology, has been named in a list of the top two percent of scientists in the world. This is a great achievement which recognises his world leading research in the field. In addition, he has worked on two important research projects involving traditional masculinities and examining allyship among male athletes.

To mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October Brendan worked with the World Health Organisation Europe on a report focusing on how masculinity norms can discourage men from recognising and seeking help for mental health problems.

One key suggestion from the report was that more gender-transformative health promotion would change the culture around men seeking help. Successful interventions have reframed help-seeking as a strength rather than a weakness. [Read more.](#)

Brendan has also been working with Ph.D. student, Adam Lowe, to explore and evaluate the inclusivity-in-sport project, Worldwide Roar. Worldwide Roar aims to empower sportsmen as agents of change for LGBTQ+, gender equality, and better male mental health. [Read more.](#)



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

Chelsea, PhD. student and GTA in Political Communication, in the Leeds School of Social Sciences has taken some time to collate the main things to consider when applying to University.

It is understandable that when starting your UCAS applications you may feel overwhelmed by the process. Chelsea's tips below give an idea of what to consider before applying and how you can feel more prepared.

- **Select your course**
It's important to think carefully about the course you want to study. Is the subject you have selected, the right one for you? Chelsea recommends that you make sure you fully understand what the course consists of and check the specific modules.
- **Beyond the classroom**
The university experience consists of a lot more than just lectures. It's worth looking at the facilities and extra-curricular activities available. You need to be able to imagine yourself living and studying at that university for the next three years.
- **Consider your finances**
Before applying, it is important to know whether you can live comfortably in your chosen location. Working out the monthly cost of rent and utilities will help with this as well as exploring the various part-time job opportunities Leeds has to offer.

Read all Chelsea's top tips [here](#).

HEALTH AND SAFETY- APPLIED RESEARCH IN ACTION

Dr. Jim Morgan, Head of [Psychology Applied to Safety and Health \(PASH\)](#) and Dr. Matteo Curcuruto have recently launched two successful Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). A KTP involves work with different organisations to transfer academic knowledge into a new initiative or challenge.

These partnerships with Amey, multi-national supplier of consulting and infrastructure support services, and specialist railway infrastructure services company, VolkerRail, aim to research, better understand, and improve safety behaviours and reduce costs and staff injuries in the companies.

The impact of the projects has been substantial for both companies. They now have evidence-based behavioural safety protocols to both monitor safety-critical workflows and to analyse incidents to improve safety further. [Read more](#).

NEW PROJECT SUPPORTING COVID-19 RECOVERY FOR BUSINESS BASED IN THE UK

Dr. Matteo Curcuruto is undertaking a new international research project to support a safe COVID-19 recovery for UK businesses.

The project, based within Psychology Applied to Safety and Health (PASH) group, involves collaborating with an international network of psychologists who are interested in understanding how businesses can best thrive in a post-lockdown COVID world.

Implementing new rules can negatively impact both productivity and profitability. This is in part due to restructuring normal tasks in order to adapt. Successfully navigating these complex changes requires workers to have a long-lasting shift in their behaviours following COVID-secure restrictions. [Read more](#)



OBE FOR LEEDS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES ALUMNA

Sarah Wallace, graduate of Professional Studies in Speech and Language Therapy (1996), has been recognised in the Queen's 2021 New Year Honours list for her services to the NHS.

Now a Consultant Speech and Language Therapist at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Sarah was awarded the OBE in celebration of her work as an internationally recognised leader and senior clinician within the specialised area of dysphagia and critical care in speech and language therapy, as well as her vital services and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy COVID-19 advisory group, she has played an instrumental role in developing key guidance during the pandemic. [Read more](#).



THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CARE

During the pandemic, it's safe to say that we've all experienced feelings of anxiety and uncertainty to a greater or lesser extent.

There's no doubt that the situation has had an impact on the mental health of each and every one of us in some way. So, if there was ever a time to start taking (better) care of ourselves, it's now.

Dr Nina Martin, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, has written a timely and important piece exploring what self-care is, why it's important and ways to care for our head, heart, body and soul. [Read more.](#)

DEVELOPING WORKING WITH TRAUMA QUALITY STANDARDS

Dr Alexandrla Bradley was invited by charity, One Small Thing, to write, design and develop the documentation for 'Working with Trauma Quality Mark' which is a new quality assurance accreditation for organisations to demonstrate their good practice when working with individuals with trauma histories. This is the first initiative of its kind in the country.

One Small Thing facilitates and funds trauma-informed programmes for the prison and community sectors that consider the individual caught in a cycle of crime and incarceration and aim to humanise their process.

They strive to shift the noise of blame and judgement and shift the 'what's wrong with them?' line of questioning to a more effective and healing 'what happened to them?' approach.

Read more about [One Small Thing](#) and the [Working with Trauma Quality mark](#).

ONLINE MISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA. ARE WE ALL INVOLVED?

Dr Chris Till, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, examines whether misinformation spread in the media is any different to propaganda used by people in power.

Chris explores the role of the 'normal' internet user in creating and spreading propaganda-type messages and how they can be mobilised or steered to encourage people to act in particular ways on a larger scale (for example when participating in elections or political votes).

Looking at 'reflexive control', an approach to 'psychological operations' (or propaganda) developed by the USSR in the Cold War to use information to influence the decision making of a specific target, Chris applies this to how this could now be applied to much bigger groups due to the kind of psychographic profiles and targeted advertising which are enabled by social media.

Perhaps most distinctive about the kind of propaganda which happens online is the way in which all users are "unwitting agents of influence" in these campaigns. It is well known that social media sites (such as Facebook) make money by constructing profiles of their users so they can sell targeted adverts to company who want to find customers.

These profiles contain the same kinds of information as used by the proponents of "reflexive control" in the USSR during the Cold War. But the data in these profiles has come not from spying but from the users "liking" friends' photos of their dogs and sharing news articles.

As well as allowing us to communicate in new and fun ways allow the "reflexive control" approach to propaganda to be applied not just to prominent and influential individuals but to almost entire populations.

This simply wouldn't be possible without the kinds of data now routinely generated on all social media users. Also, while "normal" citizens have always been implicated in the spreading of messages through word of mouth it is now easier for propagandists to identify particular individuals who are likely to be receptive to their messages and to distribute these is more widely.

[Read full article.](#)



COLLEAGUES CONTRIBUTE TO PRESS SURROUNDING THE STORMING OF THE CAPITOL

Professor John Craig, Dean of School, and Dr Tom Houseman, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations have recently offered their perspective to local news outlets on the implications of the momentous attack which took place on 7 January.

In his interview with Nick Ahad from BBC Radio, Professor Craig emphasised the magnitude of this occurrence, likening it to the equivalent of an attack taking place on the House of Commons. He highlighted how the events called into question the stability of the political landscape in America, particularly in view of the inauguration of Joe Biden on 20 January. Washington is the location of many significant political protests however the storming of the Capitol has resulted in discussions as to whether restrictions need to be applied, and whether these will impinge people's ability to speak on current issues.



Professor Craig continued to discuss the problematic issue of Trump's lack of acceptance for the legitimacy of the election result. However, he asserted that this is the time for senior members of the Republican Party to demonstrate honest and sincere leadership and to disassociate themselves with the denial and violence in order to move forward.

In his [Yorkshire Evening Post article](#), Dr Houseman acknowledged that although the events taking place were a spectacle they are only exceptional if we romanticise US history. He discussed how the US has never been a democracy in the popular sense but rather a constitutional republic. This ideal strays from the one typically taught in US schools. He continues that the structural crisis of American society has been left out of electoral politics due

the political elite's cultural norms of liberal respectability. Trump and his supporters have demonstrated how frail these norms are. Instead of waiting for "a return to normality" after these events, this instead is the symptom of normality that has been building for decades.

Following the vote to impeach Donald Trump, Professor Craig added: "Whatever the outcome of a Senate trial, the question for the Republican Party is whether it chooses to continue on the course set by Donald Trump or reject this. For the Democrats, the challenges will soon be those of a party coming to power in a deeply divided country at a time of crisis. They will want to build broad support for measures to tackle the pandemic and implement their policy programme".

SETTING NEW STANDARDS FOR PLACEMENTS IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

As many Speech and Language Therapy placements were cancelled in March 2020 due to COVID-19, the SLT teaching team rapidly converted what would have been face-to-face clinical placements into virtual learning opportunities that supported the students to gain their clinical skills, graduate and enter the workforce. The SLT team are in the process of formally evaluating the experience from student perspectives.

This enormous learning for the teaching team has been used to inform national placement guidance, which was urgently needed to support practice placements to continue throughout the pandemic. Naomi de Graff led on the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists' [Guidance for Practice-based learning 2020-21](#).



This is part of a revision of standards of practice-based learning for the speech and language therapy profession which Jo Sandiford is leading on and will be published in Spring 2021.

Naomi de Graff and Jo Sandiford were subsequently successful in securing a £50k bid from Health Education England to support further practice-based learning developments. They have also presented their learning and ideas from the placement work at national webinars for Health Education England and NHS Education for Scotland in June and July 2020.



REPORT FOR HOME OFFICE CHALLENGES RACIAL STEREOTYPES ASSOCIATED WITH GROOMING GANGS

Dr Waqas Tufail, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, undertook research for this report titled 'Group based child sexual exploitation characteristics of offending' over two-years, alongside Dr Ella Cockbain from University College London.

Writing in The Guardian, Dr Tufail calls out the lack of foundation to the widely held belief that Muslim men of Pakistani heritage are disproportionately responsible for offences related to "grooming gangs". The research highlights that the majority of group-based offenders are white and, whilst not dismissing the horrific nature of crimes that took place in Rochdale, Oxford, and Telford, it does address the racial stereotyping that arose from them. This research will influence policy and help local authorities and communities in tackling sexual abuse.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENT WINS 800M WORLD RECORD

We're incredibly proud that first year BSc (Hons) Criminology student, Keely Hodgkinson, has broken the under 20s 800 metre indoor world record at the European Championships in Vienna. Keely, who is the current under-18 European Champion, broke the under-20s record by two seconds with 1:59:03, beating the previous record of 2:01:03, held by Ethiopian Meskerem Legesse.

In an interview with Athletics Weekly, after her victory, Keely said "It was all about not panicking when they all went off so fast but, to be honest it could not have gone better so I'm really happy".

PUBLICATIONS NEWS

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