

Imperial College
London

Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

Annual Report

2019-2020 & 2020-21



Introduction

Dr Ana Costa-Pereira

Director



What strange years these have been! When I was appointed in February 2020 as new Director of the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication (CLCC), it was hard to envisage that, as I stepped up to the job later in August, the world would be plunged into the COVID epidemic, with millions isolating and many studying and working online.

I was lucky in many ways: staff were most welcoming, and everyone made sure that I was fully briefed and acquainted with the job at hand, and the CLCC was in a fantastic position as I took over from Prof. Roberto Trotta, its previous Director.

I met staff online (perhaps even more regularly than we would have met face-to-face) and we all worked hard to ensure that our mission was not perturbed by the coronavirus. Or at least not too much! The CLCC is renowned for its student-centric approaches and innovative approaches, and it was with a huge sense of pride that I witnessed the team rising to every challenge. It was not always easy; indeed, it was very tough at times and, throughout, we all learnt a great deal from the experience.

Throughout the pandemic, the CLCC continued to deliver excellent learning and teaching in humanities, languages and science communication. In 2020-21, our flagship Imperial Horizons programme offered 5,200 undergraduates (an increase from 4,864 in 2019-20) access to modules in the fields of Change Makers, Languages, Humanities and Social Sciences. Horizons also formed the largest constituent of I-Explore, Imperial's bespoke programme designed to broaden students' perspectives outside of their key discipline. I-Explore launched in 2020 at the toughest of times and, yet, despite all the changes that modules had to undergo, it was a huge success judging by student and staff feedback. The Centre's Science Communication Unit continued to run our two internationally-renowned Master programmes in Science Communication and Science Media Production, with the usual flair and creativity, making every student feel part of the family, and our Adult Education programme continued to offer not only excellent day and evening classes in the arts, humanities, languages and sciences to staff, students, and members of the public (all online) but also launched a pilot programme for Postgraduate students. Despite radical changes in how students had to engage with each of our modules and programmes, CLCC's offerings continued to receive outstanding student approval which remained ahead of the wider College, particularly in terms of feedback students receive on their work. In addition to this, we continued to collaborate across the College, and externally, to provide bespoke teaching for the Departments and experiential learning opportunities for the Science Communication Master students.

As we move forward and learnt to live with this new virus, the CLCC will continue to strengthen its portfolio and collaborations, fostering an excellent environment for learning and working.

Highlights

2019-2020 saw the intake of first year undergraduates who would be the first to participate in the I-Explore programme, and a celebration of 70 years of Humanities learning at Imperial. A series of celebratory events was cut short by COVID-19 in March 2020.

I-Explore

October 2019 saw the arrival of the first cohort of undergraduate students who would take an I-Explore module in either their second or third year of their undergraduate degree. Those taking I-Explore in their 2nd year of study in October 2020 registered for the programme towards the end of their first year in summer 2020. Students chose from a wide selection of options outside of their main degree, taken from four different streams: Imperial Horizons, BPES (Business for Professionals of Engineering and Science), STEMM modules from a department other than the students' own, or multidisciplinary projects. The CLCC was delighted that approximately half of the I-Explore enrolments were for the Horizons suite of modules. We were pleased to help the I-Explore team with the complicated logistics of enrolment. Students have, of course, continued to be encouraged to take Horizons modules for non-credit or extra credit in the years in which they are not required to take an I-Explore module. Having Horizons embedded in the curriculum demonstrates the commitment Imperial has to broadening the student perspective.

Humanities @ 70 Celebrations



It was with much enthusiasm that we planned a series of events, including an exhibition, seminars and a symposium to celebrate 70 years of Humanities at Imperial. Artists, musicians, linguists and more gathered at Imperial on 3 March 2020 to celebrate its history of teaching Humanities alongside scientific excellence. The Humanities@70 celebrations were planned as a programme of events and exhibitions open to the College community and the general public throughout 2020, offering opportunities for the curious-minded to dive into Imperial's history in Humanities and the Arts. Humanities at Imperial started with the Silwood Park 'Touchstone Weekends' in the 1950s and can now be found in the Imperial Horizons Programme (offered as part of the I-Explore programme), the Science Communication Unit and the Adult Education classes, all of which fall within the remit of the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication. Sadly, the COVID-19 national lockdown started only days after the launch event so most were unable to go ahead. We are delighted, however, that the Humanities@70 exhibition boards is available for displaying in the CLCC gallery when other exhibitions are not showing.

**“Our vision is to empower
STEMM students to See More,
Achieve More and Be More”**

Imperial Horizons Vision 2020-2025



Highlights (continued)

Rising to the challenge of COVID-19, for the latter part of the 2019-2020 academic year, and for the whole of 2020-2021, the HE sector had to adapt and think the unthinkable. CLCC rose to the challenge.

The Virtual Classroom

In her blog, Live, Love, Learn, Horizons Change Makers Field Leader Dr Elizabeth Hauke discusses the challenges of designing successful online learning. After much research, Elizabeth settled on Basecamp, a remote-learning software package which enabled the creation of a suite of virtual rooms, including a staff room, common room and, of course, classrooms. This has allowed the Change Makers teaching team to replicate creatively the physical experience of face-to-face teaching in a way which engages students and maximises the learning experience. Elizabeth explains further:

“ [The common room] space is available to all Change Makers students across all our modules. There are collaborative, reflective activities here that the students can engage with, interacting with students from other modules. We call this our Reflective Interchange.”

“it was really important to us as a teaching team that we could contact each other privately within the online learning space – just in case we ran into problems or needed to support each other technically or otherwise.”

“[In each module classroom] There is a section for Briefings and Materials – this is where we post session briefing videos, activity instructions and resources and is also where students submit work. We have a Class Talking Points section, where we document live discussions to enable students accessing the class at different times of the day to follow and contribute to ongoing discussions. We have our class chat and also our Check In. The Check In is a simple question that every student must answer to signal their engagement and attendance at each class. It is compulsory but not marked.”

“.. we could share our ideas just like physically in the classroom.” Second year student

‘Can you hear me?’ - virtual interactions and hosting events on-line

Inevitably, with the challenges came frustrations. We have all had to learn new technologies quickly; technologies that did not always work as well as we would like and which had limitations and negative consequences such as students and staff feeling isolated. Greg Artus (Philosophy Lecturer) explains how he went about trying to improve the student experience.

“ I started a virtual pub for students during lockdown as a social space for them to relax and discuss philosophical topics over in a casual environment. It was called The Wittgenstein’s Head, and was designed to recreate at least some of the informal learning and socialising that the pandemic made impossible while everyone was locked in their rooms. It ran on Thursday evenings from 7.00 until whenever, and was quite popular, with numbers ranging between 6 and 20 each week. Some of the students are still meeting online even over the summer and have a forged a little philosophy community, so I’d say it was a success.”

Instead of the usual high-volume information stalls at events such as Freshers’ Fair, open days and drop-in information sessions, CLCC staff became adept at hosting ‘Teams Live’ events on-line. These were well attended and ensured that students could meet some of the faces behind the names, find out more and ask questions.



The great outdoors

The Science Communication Unit made the most of the outdoor facilities on our doorstep, took a gamble on the weather, and hosted part of their 2020 induction week in Hyde Park to allow students and staff to meet face to face.

Staff Spotlight

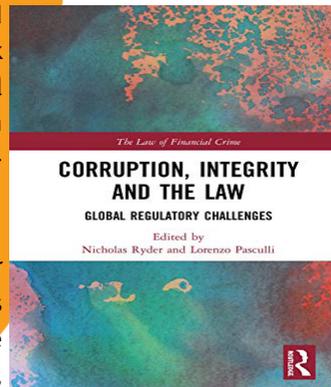
CLCC colleagues have had two busy years...

Lorenzo Pasculli - Corruption, Integrity and the Law

The second collection of research essays co-edited by Horizons Law lecturer Lorenzo Pasculli was published in February 2020.

A continuation of the research project he initiated with Prof Nicholas Ryder (UWE Bristol), *Corruption, Integrity and the Law: Global Regulatory Challenges* follows on from *Corruption in the Global Era*, published in 2019. The latest work explores international and local responses to corruption in an attempt to identify a global anti-corruption framework.

The book brings together authors from different countries and backgrounds to examine the many facets of anti-corruption, including criminal justice, whistle-blowing protection, EU ethical integration and moral learning. Dr Pasculli teaches some of the book's findings in his third-year Horizons module Conflict, Crime and Justice.

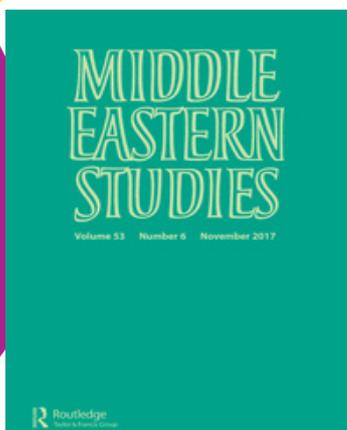


Michael Weatherburn

Congratulations to Michael Weatherburn who was appointed Academic Fellow of IC Data Science Institute in 2021.

Mashail Ali published in Middle Eastern Studies journal

In November 2020, Dr Mashail Haydar Ali, Arabic Coordinator's article 'The language policy of the Caliphate State' was published in the *Middle Eastern Studies* journal.



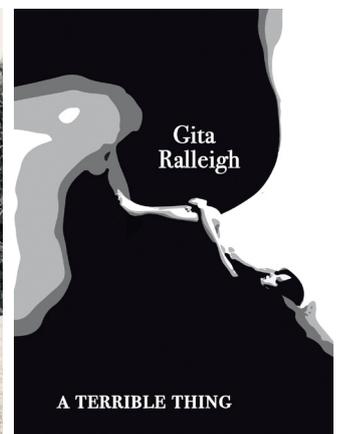
The article examines and critiques the macro top-down constitutional language policy of the so-called the Caliphate State, often referred to by the acronyms ISIS and ISIL. Mashail's article is the first study to examine ISIS's one

nation-one language Arabisation policy.

Gita Ralleigh - A Terrible Thing

Congratulations to Gita Ralleigh, Creative Writing lecturer, whose book of poetry was released in paperback in the Autumn.

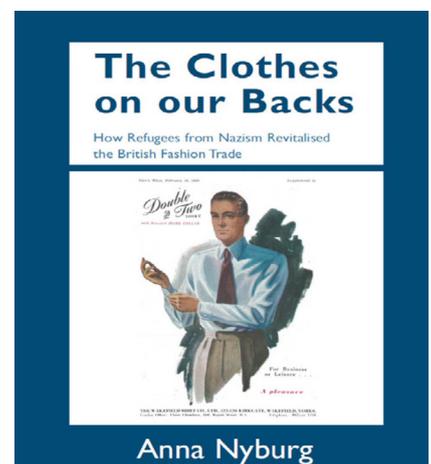
A Terrible Thing is a poetry collection featuring goddesses of diverse cultures, girls, women and mothers in all their terrible beauty and power. The poems speak of diaspora and the way landscape holds memory, the precarious power of girlhood, the terrible love of motherhood and issue a rallying cry for us to live fearlessly 'as wise women, who rule the world'. *A Terrible Thing* was published by Bad Betty Press in October 2020.



Anna Nyburg - The Clothes on Our Backs

The Clothes on our Backs: How Refugees from Nazism Revitalised the British Fashion Trade, by CLCC Honorary lecturer Anna Nyburg was published by Vallentine Mitchell in February 2020.

Anna's latest book tells of the recruitment of refugee clothiers to British companies and the influence they had over the industry: the technology, practices, and designs - including the twinset, the beret, the Pringle sweater and more. Anna was able to hold a book launch at Waterstones, Clapham Junction in February 2020.



Staff Spotlight (continued)

Bruno Bower - Discovering Opera at the Coliseum

On 11th February 2020, in his first year teaching Discovering Opera, Bruno Bower took his class to see the ENO production of Carmen at the Coliseum. Bruno arranged for the students to meet the conductor Valentina Peleggi who then took them backstage to meet the stars. Valentina also stayed with the group afterwards to answer all their questions about conducting opera. This unique privilege for all involved is something Bruno hopes to repeat for future opera classes. The 2019-20 Discovering Opera class with conductor Valentina Peleggi (far left), Sean Panikkar as Don José (crouching, middle) and Justina Gringyt as Carmen (second from right).

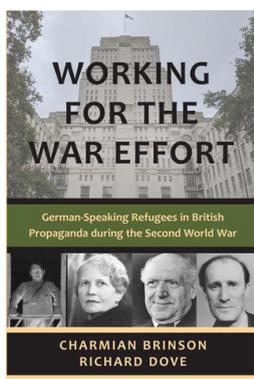


Gus Subero - Gender and Violence in Iberian and Latin American Cinema

Gus Subero's essay 'Horror, gender violence and Latin American heteronormative rhetoric as mechanisms to invoke a queer subjectivity in La memoria del muerto' was published in the book *Gender and Violence in Iberian and Latin American Cinema* (M J Gamez Fuentes, R Maseda & B Zecchi, eds). Described as "a groundbreaking contribution to the international debate on the cinematic construction of gender-based violence" and including essays from diverse cultural backgrounds and institutions, the collection analyses a wide range of films. Gus's essay forms Chapter 6 under Part II: 'Gender violence and agency: beyond binarisms'.

Working for the War Effort by Char Brinson

Char's book, written with Richard Dove, is subtitled 'German-Speaking Refugees in British Propaganda during the Second World War'. The book explores a facet of British WW2 propaganda that has previously hardly been considered: that much of Britain's wartime propaganda was in fact prepared and delivered by foreigners, not least those officially designated as 'enemy aliens'. The book was published by Vallentine Mitchell in June 2021.



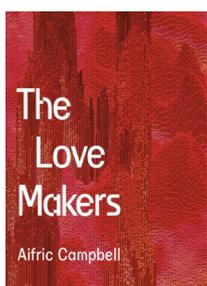
Mara Benetti - Livingston Unfound

Mara Benetti's debut novel was published on 28th August 2021. A reference to the village on the Atlantic coast of Guatemala, *Livingston Unfound* is set in a turbulent time in history and charts the journey of Monica, travelling alone and confronting the clash between her own privilege and the poverty and repression around her. Striving to build relationships across the divides of class, race and culture, Monica experiences the conflicts that come with being a traveller far from home. Although a work of fiction, *Livingston Unfound* draws upon Mara Benetti's own experiences living in Guatemala and Central America in the 1980's.



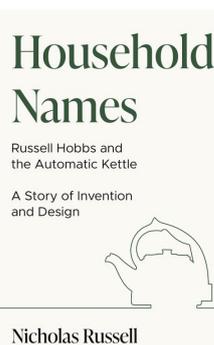
Aifric Campbell - The Love Makers

Creative Writing Lecturer Aifric Campbell's new novel was published in summer 2021. The book combines both a novel and 12 essays from STEM academics and commentators from a range of institutions including Cambridge, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, Hertie School, Berlin, UPenn, Dartmouth College, Kings College London, Sheffield and Imperial College London. Described as "a philosophical thriller about female friendship, class, motherhood, women, and work" the novel begins with a chance encounter between two women with devastating consequences. Both novel and essays explore how artificial intelligence and robotics are transforming the future of love and desire.



Household Names by Nicholas Russell

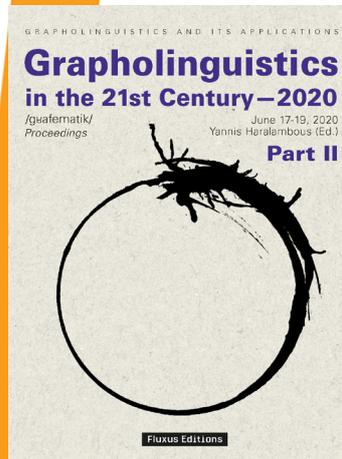
Nick Russell's book charts the early history of the domestic appliance firm Russell Hobbs, of which his father Bill was co-founder. Nick's relationship with the designer-founded enabled him to access certain records and tell the story of the K2 automatic kettle amongst other innovations. The work also looks at Morphy Richards. Donal Morphy was an Imperial graduate in Electrical Engineering (1920), notable college oarsman and Old Centralian. *Household Names* was published in February 2021.



Staff Spotlight (continued)

Keisuke Honda - Grapholinguistics and the 21st Century

Keisuke Honda's paper 'A modular theoretic approach to the Japanese writing system: possibilities and challenges' was published in volume 6 of *Grapholinguistics in the 21st Century* (G21C). G21C brings together disciplines concerned with grapholinguistics, the study of writing systems and their representation in written communication. Volume 6 is based on the 2020 conference proceedings.



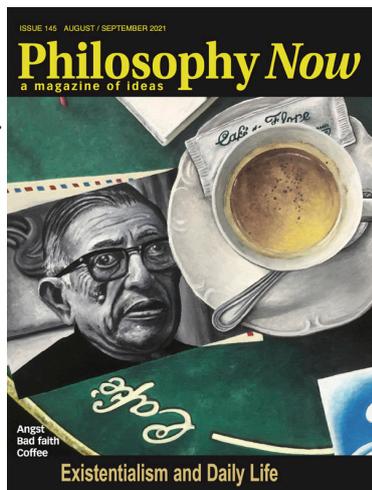
In his paper, Keisuke proposes to extend the scope of the Modular Theory of Writing Systems (MT), which has traditionally focused on the analysis of modern alphabetic systems. His paper discusses the functional aspects of the present-day Japanese writing system within the MT framework. The discussion highlights the possibilities and challenges of current MT and presents some proposals to increase its applicability to non-alphabetic systems.

This is Keisuke's second paper in the field of Grapholinguistics and its Applications. The first, 'What do kanji graphs represent in the current Japanese writing system? Towards a unified model of kanji as written signs', was published in Volume 1 of the same series in 2018.

Greg Artus in Philosophy Now

The August 2021 edition of *Philosophy Now* featured an article by Greg Artus called 'We're All Existentialists Now'.

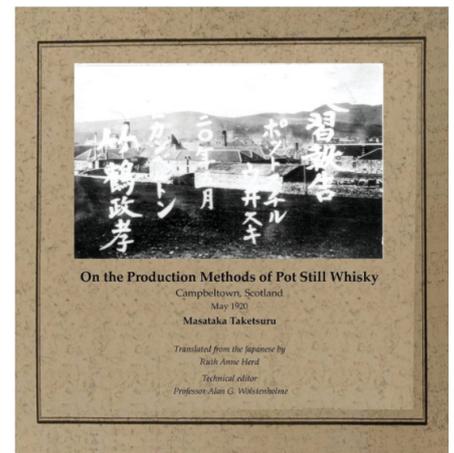
In the article Greg contemplates (dis)embodiment, Zoom life and social media, through the 'Looks' of Sartre, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty. Writing about how some strands of philosophy can help us better understand why we missed the physical presence of others while living through Zoom, Greg explains why social media can sometimes be quite toxic. The article can be read online at philosophynow.org/issues/145/Were_All_Existentialists_Now.



Ruth Herd translates work by 'the father of Japanese whisky'

On the Production Methods of Pot Still Whisky, penned by Masataka Taketsuru, sets out in meticulous detail all he learned as a 25-year-old apprentice at Hazelburn Whiskey Distillery, Campbeltown, Scotland in 1920. Taketsuru's notebooks went on to become the cornerstone of the nascent Japanese whisky industry.

This work, previously available only in Japanese, has now been translated into English by the CLCC's Dr Ruth Herd, in collaboration with Professor Alan G. Wolstenholme. Published by Humming Earth the volume was released in August 2021.



Michael Weatherburn and the College History and Legacy Group

The Imperial College History and Legacy Group comprises twenty staff from across Imperial College, from all professional backgrounds and walks of life, plus specialists from UCL and Oxford. The group was commissioned in 2020 and is headed by Professor Nilay Shah (a chemical engineer who, incidentally, studied the history and philosophy of science as an Imperial student in the eighties). CLCC's Michael Weatherburn is one of seven advisors to the group.

Over a year, the group investigated and debated the historical origins of, for example, named professorships, prizes, and College venues. The Group's published report, extensively covered by the media, is a consultation document, in line with the broader crystallisation of Imperial's values, purpose and goals. At the time of writing (November 2021) the group's work is being studied by Imperial's community of students, staff, alumni, and other stakeholders, with a view to developing future decision-making. Alongside the College archivist, Anne Barrett, Michael is building on this work by supervising a student-led investigation into the living history of Imperial College under the Covid-19 pandemic. Members of our community can email their comments, thoughts, and ideas to history.dialogue@imperial.ac.uk.

CLCC Collaborations

Change Makers project integrated within the IC Global Development Hub

In May 2021 Imperial College London launched the **Global Development Hub** to bring together Imperial's expertise and thus maximise the global impact of its world-leading research, education and innovation. A key aim of the work of the GDH is developing the skills and thinking needed to rise the challenge of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Within the Hub, the Horizons Change Makers Independent Project is showcased alongside other College activities reflecting Imperial's commitment to instilling in students a passion for sustainable development. The UN's SDGs are already a significant element of the Change Makers field. In the 1st Year Global Challenges suite of modules, students are given the opportunity to focus on a global issue that interests them. This is followed through in 2nd Year options, notably the My World modules which each focus on an SDG and the Global Village modules exploring the complexity of international development through a real-world case study. The Change Makers Independent Project, offered to 3rd, 4th and 5th Year Undergraduates is an alternative to an Horizons taught module, enabling students with a particular interest in global issues to explore it in some depth through independent study. Change Makers learning innovation features on the the College's GDH Education webpages.

HEartS Professional

Since late 2020, Aifric Campbell and George Waddell have been working as Co-Investigators on a major AHRC-funded research project led by the Centre for Performance Science, (a partnership of the Royal College of Music and Imperial College).

HEartS Professional, a project investigating the impact of the pandemic on professionals in the arts and culture sectors, aims to provide knowledge, leadership, advocacy, and new ways forward when and where they are needed most. Aifric and George are part of a nine-strong project team of experts from Imperial, RCM and UAL. <https://performancescience.ac.uk/HEartSProfessional/>



Sci Comm Partnerships with Polish Universities

In May 2021 the Science Communication Unit launched a partnership with four leading Polish universities - the Adam Mickiewicz University, The Jagiellonian University, Medical University of Gdansk and Warsaw University of Technology. The aim is to build better bridges between scientific researchers, the public and policymakers in order to help shape policy and societal attitudes in areas including climate change and pandemics.

Dr Stephen Webster opened the event by looking at the role of science communication in the world today and noted that 'communicare' - the Latin root of the word 'communication' - means to share.



Delegates from Jagiellonian University at the hybrid launch event

“That’s always how we’ve thought about science communication at Imperial: a matter of sharing, especially a matter of sharing ideas and sharing expertise. From the start of this collaboration the central idea has been that the university really can be a centre for science communication.”

Student Successes

CLCC Undergraduate Awards

Each year two Sir Arthur Acland Prizes for Excellence are awarded to undergraduate students of any department for excellence in Languages and Humanities subject areas. The President's Prize (formerly the Rector's Prize) for Communication Skills is awarded to the highest scoring student on the Imperial Horizons module Science Communication.

2019-20 Undergraduate Awards

The Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Excellence in Humanities:

- Laura-Yvonne Gherghina (2nd Year Biochemistry), for her work on Horizons module Why be good? Problems in Moral Philosophy.

The Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Excellence in Languages (jointly awarded):

- Saidu Kamara (4th Year Chemistry with Research Abroad), for his German Year Abroad Language Project
- Joshua Wei Ken Yeoh (3rd Year Chemistry), for his work on Horizons module Japanese Level 5.

The President's Prize for Communication Skills:

- Yasmin Herbert (2nd Year Biochemistry), for Horizons module Science Communication.

2020-21 Undergraduate Awards

The Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Excellence in Humanities (two awards):

- Maria Portela (4th Year Molecular Bioengineering), for Horizons module History of Science, Technology and Industry
- Hei Loi Yip (3rd Year Biological Sciences), for Horizons module Science Communication

The Sir Arthur Acland Prize for Excellence in Languages (three awards):

- Eugene Lin (5th Year Biochemistry with French for Science) for French Level 6
- Maciej Adam Zajackowski (4th Year Biomedical Engineering) for Mandarin Level 4
- Molly Edbrooke (Biological Sciences with German for Science) for German Level 6

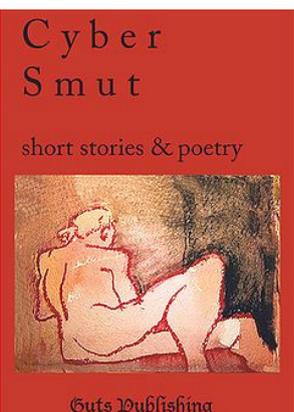
The President's Prize for Science Communication:

- Jamie Jonh (3rd Year Mechanical Engineering), for Horizons module Science Communication.

Asad Raja's short story published in new anthology 'Cyber Smut'



Whilst still in his final year of his Mechanical Engineering degree, undergraduate student Asad Raja had his short story 'Home / Screen' published in a collection of 25 poems and short stories about how the internet and technology impact our lives, our sexuality and how we love. Asad was a student of Advanced Creative Writing in 2019-20 and 'Home / Screen' is an imaginative take on social media. *Cyber Smut* was released by Guts Publishing in September 2020.



Student Successes (continued)

Japanese Speech Contest 2020

Held on 29th February, just weeks before the UK's lockdown, the 15th annual Japanese Speech Contest for University Students took place at King's College London to an audience of judges, key figures from the UK-Japan community, teachers, students and members of the public. Imperial's entrants, all students of Japanese through the CLCC's Horizons programme, competed against those undertaking Japanese degrees at other UK universities.

First Prize in the Individual Presentation Category was awarded to Imperial's Joshua Wei Ken Yeoh (3rd Year Chemistry, Horizons Japanese Level 5) with his speech entitled "Materialism and Environment".

In the Group Presentation Category, Wendy Meng (2nd Year Aeronautical Engineering, Horizons Japanese Level 3) and Jaco Lee (2nd Year Biological Sciences, Horizons Japanese Level 2) were also selected as one of the five winning groups. Their presentation was on "bubble tea" the East Asian drink which has risen in popularity globally.

Prize-winner Joshua Wei Ken Yeoh and teacher Dr Yuki Tokumaru



The Imperial finalists with their tutors

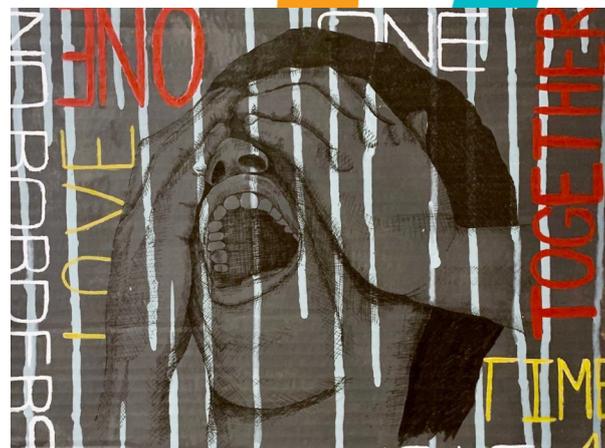


Change Makers student work features at EWB Finals

Each year, Horizons students from the Change Makers module Global Village: Innovation Challenge participate in the national competition Engineering for People Design Challenge run by Engineers without Borders (EWB) UK.

In 2019-20 the real-world design challenge was based on Makers Valley, South Africa. Dr Mark Pope, who leads the modules, supported four teams in submitting their designs and was delighted when one team reached the competition's grand finals. Team 'Crack Attack' (Leopold Hebert-Stevens, Marine Coispeau, Jose Guijarro Niez, Adrian Ize-Iyamu and Aishwarya Swaminathan Saravanan) designed a remote controlled water pipe leak detector for a community in Johannesburg.

In a new initiative, artwork generated by Imperial students on Global Village: Visual Arts Challenge was put on display at the event, held digitally in 2020 due to the pandemic. The images were exhibited on-screen during the competition recess.



Community by Maria Le

Student Successes (continued)

Grand Finals of the Engineering for People Design Challenge 2021

On 1st July 2021, a team of students from the Horizons ‘Global Village: Innovation Challenge’ module presented their design at the finals of the Engineering for People Design Challenge. Christiana Mears, Efstratios Chatzieleftheriou, Erikas Kymantas, Razvan Rusu and Shrey Bohra put together an innovative proposal for an Electronic Power Outlet Lamppost (EPO). The lamppost, made from local timber, not only illuminated the streets but also provided an outlet to recharge electronic devices.

Over 10,000 students enter the annual competition, organised by Engineers Without Borders UK, so we were pleased to reach the **final six teams**. Students had been tasked with designing for communities in the towns of Lobitos and Piedritas, on the coast of Peru.

Students studying our ‘Global Village: Innovation Challenge’ module created artwork inspired by their research into Lobitos and Piedritas. They exhibited this art at the Grand Finals event.

Empowerment by Panlada Trirotanan (below, left), and Paradise (below, right) by Mi-Tra Tran.



Japanese Speech Contest goes online

The 2021 Japanese Speech Contest for University Students took place online on 6th March 2021. Imperial sent two finalists (out of five) in the Individual Presentation Category and both did so well that the judges had to create a special prize to award to the Imperial runner up.

Individual Presentation Category

First Prize: Kailun (Karen) Peng (Year 3 Mathematics with Statistics, Horizons Japanese Level 5): Title: “Not exactly your ‘China Doll!’”: living in a world of stereotypes

Individual Presentation Category Runner Up

Wei Shan (Helen) Tan (4th year, Material Science) “Mental Health and Us”

Group Presentation Category Finalists 2021

Shi Wing (Martha) Yeung (Biotechnology), Ivan Ereshchenko (Computing), Florin-Teodor Ruja (Computing) and Anne Katrin Soltow (Aeronautical Engineering) “Jolly good snow: Winter Holidays - Christmas & New Year”.

Tamarind Literary Magazine

Horizons alumna Anita Chandran has joined forces with Hillary Lamb and Gautam Kambhampati (also affiliated with the CLCC via the Horizons module Advanced Creative Writing and the Science Comm Master’s programme, respectively) to launch Tamarind, a new, semi-annual magazine carrying both fiction and non-fiction relating to science, scientists, and the interaction between science and society. Tamarind is published in both print and digital download - <https://tamarindlit.co.uk>.

CLCC Research Seminars 19/20

That the seminars came to an abrupt halt in March 2020 is of course a reflection of the drastic lockdown because of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, up to that point the seminars took place with the by-now-familiar blend of professional and personal research and all took place in S303A, in real life, with coffee and cake served to the audience.

An example of the CLCC's major commitment to language teaching and linguistic research was Tatiana Codreanu's presentation on 'Artefacted Hybrid Research: Teaching as a Heuristic Matrix for Transdisciplinary and Broadened Applied Linguistic Protocols'. Ruth Herd's talk on 'The Woman Warrior: Rita Taketsuru in the Popular Imagination' was a reflection on her continuing passion for Japanese theatre which she researches alongside her role as Coordinator of Mandarin in the CLCC. Charmian Brinson, too, following her decades of research in German and Austrian Exile Studies, gave a talk on 5th March on the subject of her latest book: the role of the refugees from Nazism in British wartime propaganda.

But there was novelty too, in the form of Neil Taylor from the Centre for Academic English, who was awaiting the publication of his first novel and gave us 'The Importance of Being Matson: A Journey Behind the Scenes of the Publishing World' a reference to his new *nom de plume* Matson Taylor. A hilarious and unexpected exposé of both his publishing experiences and the cynical marketing of fiction in Britain.

The lights were going out all over Britain in that March, but with Teams, Zoom and much hard work, the seminars would reappear the next academic year.

CLCC Research Seminars Programme 2019-20

31 Oct	Fédéric Piel / John James	'The Colour of Pain': the Facts and the Feelings
14 Nov	Richard Watson	The Future as Far as I Can See it
28 Nov	Roberto Trotta	The Future of Education
12 Dec	Nicholas Russell	The Perils of Patents: Problems Protecting the First British Automatic Kettle from Technical Competition
09 Jan	Ruth Herd	The Woman Warrior: Rita Taketsuru in the Popular Imagination
23 Jan	Aifric Campbell	Women Writing in Science /Anita Chandran
06 Feb	Tatiana Codreanu	Artefacted Hybrid Research-teaching as a Heuristic Matrix for Transdisciplinary and Broadened Applied Linguistic Protocols
20 Feb	Neil Taylor	The Importance of Being Matson: A Journey Behind the Scenes of the Publishing World
05 Mar	Charmian Brinson	Working for the War Effort: the Contribution of German-speaking Refugees to British Wartime Propaganda

CLCC Research Seminars 20/21

After an eight month gap due to the disruption of the COVID-19 outbreak, the seminars resumed online, now that staff had got to grips with Teams and Zoom for their teaching. There was a varied and rich programme of talks, ranging as usual from teaching research to the individual and professional interests of the staff. But the first seminar of the programme was given by our new Director: Dr Ana Costa-Pereira on the creation of a new degree course, BSc Biomedical Sciences. So we got to know our new director and also more about her own subject.

AI was explored in 'Of bodies new and strange' - storytelling, identity and inclusion in the age Artificial Intelligence' by Aifric Campbell and Anita Chandran.

Two extremely contrasting talks which concerned buildings were Nick Russell's 'Concrete and Council Housing. Berthold Lubetkin, Erno Goldfinger and their part in turning municipal dreams to nightmares' and Jennifer Wallis's 'The most offensive thing in the world'? Post-mortems in private houses in the 19th and 20th centuries'.

There was Michael Weatherburn on Memory Decay, an increasingly important topic for us all, Alexandra Fitzsimmons on the Natural History Museum and Ghada Kadi on 'Subtitling Conflict-Related Gender-Based Violence Documentaries'. Finally, Liz Chiu from the Centre for Academic English talked about teaching research in 'Learning Enhancement and the Student Experience'.

We should all appreciate the extra effort made by all speakers to deliver this excellent programme of talks at such a challenging time. Thanks are due to them all.

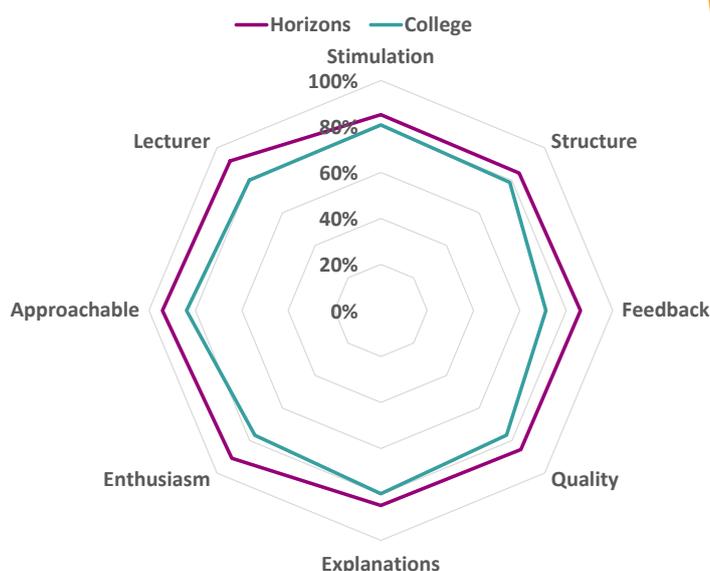
CLCC Research Seminars Programme 2020-21

12 Nov	Ana Costa-Pereira	BSc Medical Biosciences: a fully flipped undergraduate programme underpinned by experiential learning
10 Dec	Nicholas Russell	Concrete and Council Housing. Berthold Lubetkin, Erno Goldfinger and their part in turning municipal dreams to nightmares
7 Jan	Jennifer Wallis	The most offensive thing in the world'? Post-mortems in private houses in the 19th and 20th centuries
21 Jan	Michael Weatherburn	Project Hindsight: A Short Film about Memory Decay
4 Feb	Alexandra Fitzsimmons	Buried whales: exploring social and cultural history at the Natural History Museum.
18 Feb	Ghadah Kadi	Subtitling Conflict-Related Gender Based Violence Documentaries.
4 Mar	Liz Chiu	Learning Enhancement and the Student Experience.
11 Mar	Aifric Campbell/ Anita Chandran	Of bodies new and strange' - storytelling, identity and inclusion in the age Artificial Intelligence.

SOLE 2019-20 & 2020-21

It was interesting to note that the termly Student On-line Lecturer Evaluation for undergraduate modules yielded very similar results across the two years for Imperial Horizons and Year in Europe / Combined Degree teaching, despite the move to remote learning in 2020-21.

SOLE Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020 'Definitely Agree' and 'Mostly Agree'



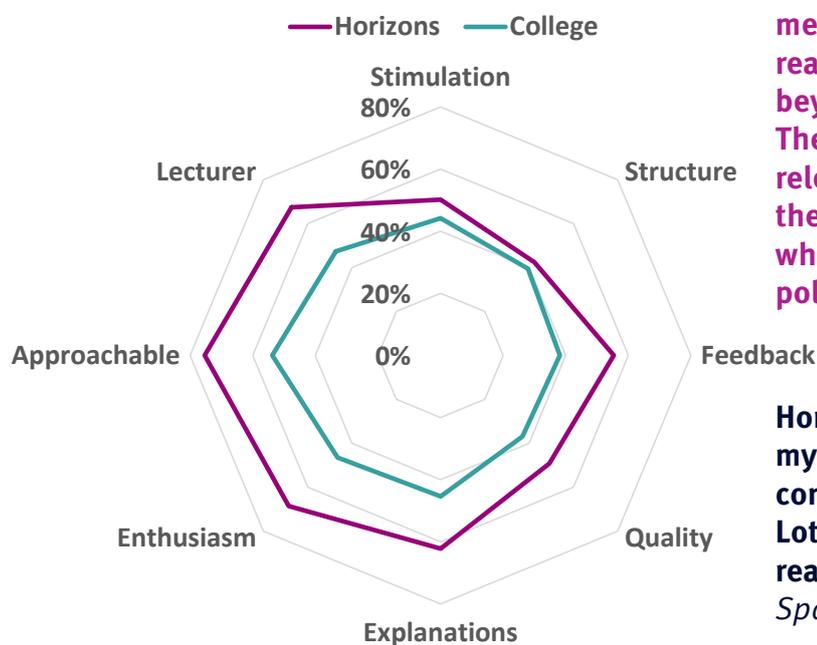
The content of the module is brilliant, really intellectually stimulating and very refreshing..
Visual Culture, Knowledge and Power

This course was really good, I learnt so much and I started without knowing any Japanese whatsoever. Lessons were very entertaining and the homework helped consolidate the knowledge taught in class. *Japanese Level 1*

Very involving and interesting module. Something completely different from my daily lectures and classes, which was a great change, very stimulating for personal development. All tasks gave food for thought and required creativity and critical thinking.
Global Challenges: Analysing Global Progress

A very interesting module, framing science in its broader context, within society, the media and policy. The sessions are organized to be a mixture of expositive lecture, group discussion and practical activities, very engaging and interesting. The guest lectures and recommended materials (documentaries, articles,...) on Blackboard put the material in a broader perspective. Detailed and helpful feedback for assignments. *Science Communicati*

SOLE Autumn 19 and Spring 20.
'Definitely Agree' only



I really enjoyed this horizons course. It made me think of the implications of science on real world politics and our role in society, beyond our "pure scientist" point of view... The discussion topics are particularly relevant to the current Covid-19 situation, as the crisis forces us to consider the extent to which science is and should be influencing policy. *Science, Policy and Power*

Honestly one of the best moments in my busy and stressful week. Interesting content taught in a friendly atmosphere. Lots of feedback. I really liked the texts read and the more 'literary' topics.
Spanish Level 6

Learning Italian was the highlight of my week - the classes were very interactive and helped in taking a break in the midst of all the technical modules we had.

Italian Level 2

Well structured and in general great fun. The feedback given was very useful, very in-depth and constructive. [My lecturer] is amazing, open to every question and made the course such a fun and interesting one. I always looked forward to it every Thursday, the teamwork aspect I personally really loved. In general very good.

Lessons from History

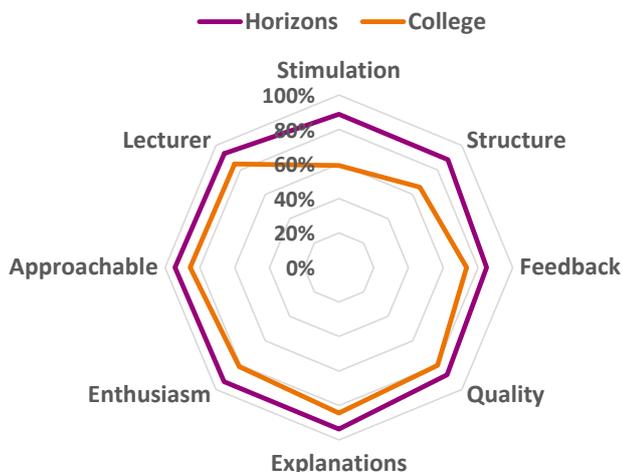
[My lecturers] made such an amazing effort to transition the class to a remote online format. They made it personal, fun, informative and actually took advantage of the situation to bring in new forms of creative expression in assessments. There was a great balance of practical application and theory and I feel like I have learned a lot from this module. It was always the highlight of my week and an absolute pleasure.

Music Technology

The module was fantastic and I am grateful for the opportunity to have done it this year.

Arabic Level 3

SOLE Autumn 2020 & Spring 2021 'Definitely Agree and 'Mostly Agree'



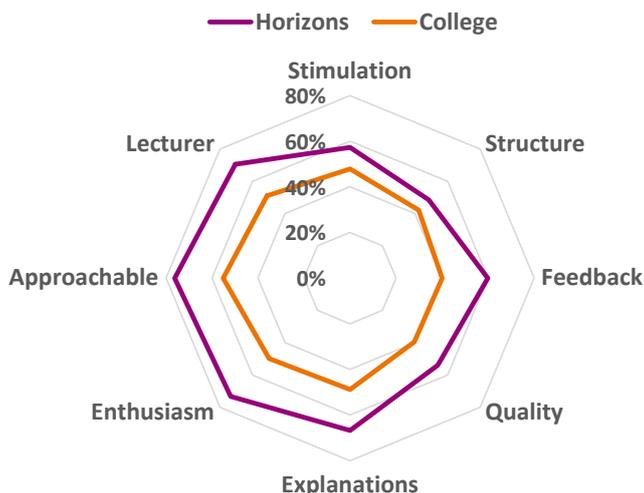
This module was truly fun, and refreshing alongside Imperial's science degrees, and was hugely beneficial to the degree as a whole. The variety of activities - small/large group discussion, in-class writing - made the module really engaging and helped focus, and I enjoyed that the selection of short stories was widely spread across genre. There were many opportunities for feedback throughout the whole module which was very helpful.

Advanced Creative Writing

This course is highly engaging and great fun.... I really enjoyed every lecture as I could share my ideas and hear others too. It's basically a student-centred course and this is the thing that I like the most. The lecturer provides interesting and fresh homework for us to interact with before the class. I like it as it is always fun to interact with social sciences rather than just science in my degree.

Science Communication

SOLE Autumn 2020 & Spring 2021 'Definitely Agree' only



Science Communication

The Science Communication Unit delivers two masters' courses, MSc Science Communication and MSc Science Media Production. Both are recognised internationally for their unique mix where humanities and social science critique is combined with industry-level practical skills. Students entering our programme train in TV and radio production, journalism, exhibition design and digital media campaigning.

The 1,000 alumni are working in all areas of the science media, in policy, in museums and in public engagement, and are making a difference. Our teaching, interactive and student-centred, celebrates the collaborative and creative instincts of our students and breeds a particular type of science communicator: thoughtful, critical, imaginative.

On campus activity came to an abrupt halt in March 2020 due to the pandemic, with teaching - including practical options - delivered on-line. In 2020-2021 the year began and ended out-of-doors. At the start of the Autumn Term the cohort gathered around the Albert Memorial and met the staff, before heading off to the museums, and then followed six months of Zoom. In July we finished formal proceedings with a trip to London Zoo. Though an astonishingly strange experience for everyone, happily the year went well, and there are many highlights to report.

Alumni highlights

Taryn Kalish (2018, pictured below), who studied under Robert Sternberg, was talent-spotted by the Edinburgh TV festival as 'one to watch'. Her feature documentary about the drum majorette girls in South Africa's most dangerous township has been shown at festivals around the world .



There were successes too at the Association of British Science Writer Awards 2021. Chrissie Giles (2003), with colleagues at the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, won the Steve Connor Award for Investigative Journalism for 'Stretched, secret supply chains hold COVID-19 patients' lives in the balance'.



Noah Baker (2012), with colleagues at Nature, won Video Story of the Year for 'Inside Japan's Big Physics'. We were delighted to hear that our recently retired journalism teacher, Wendy Barnaby, received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

PhD success

Congratulations to Geraldine Satre Buisson who gained her PhD in June 2021 with a thesis titled 'Multi-storied Climate Talk: A Narrative Analysis of International Climate Policy', a project supervised by Dr Felicity Mellor. The examiners described it as a 'highly interesting and timely thesis' and praised its innovative use of continental philosophy in elaborating the fraught world of climate policy.



Tutoring at the City Academy Hackney

Every year our MSc students help STEM Sixth Formers at the City Academy Hackney. Rebekah Lindo reports: 'I tutor A level Biology, working over the year with a group of three students. We work together to identify strengths and weaknesses - the students are good at telling me what topics they would like to go over and what they would like to achieve from our sessions. I like to send out non-compulsory worksheets for the students to complete in their own time. I keep our sessions varied, alternating between planned lessons, quizzes, games and working through exam questions together.'

Tutoring at Kings College London

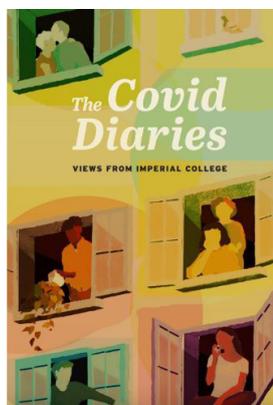
Our students are contributing to a UG course in science communication, newly running at Kings College London. Ushashi Basu reports: 'The science communication tutoring opportunity at Kings College London was a very rewarding experience. Over the course of 10 weeks, we got the chance to share not only our knowledge of science communication with the Kings students, but also our own journey in this field, through all the highs and lows. I particularly enjoyed tutoring the students because I was in their position not so long ago. It was fun sharing with them all the things about science communication that I know now, and wish I had known when I myself was a science student!'

Engagement Academy

The Engagement Academy, founded jointly by the Science Communication Unit and the Societal Engagement team, helps scientists reflect on the relationship between science and society, so that they can better develop their own engagement activities. The Academy continued during lockdown, with much evidence of science communication adapting to new realities. 2020 also saw the history of the Academy published in Research for All, in an account co-written by our Lecturer in Museum Studies, Alexandra Fitzsimmons.

Living in a pandemic

During the first lockdown, MSc students collaborated with the Museum of London on the museum's project to collect experiences of the city during the pandemic. These records of the human impact of the pandemic will help the museum tell stories for years to come about Londoners' experiences of lockdown. Other stories of the pandemic – fascinating, moving, funny - were produced by members of the 19/20 and 20/21 cohorts, available online as 'The Covid Diaries'.



Polish Collaboration

In May 2021 the provost, Professor Walmsley, spoke at the launch of a collaboration between the Unit and four Polish universities. The project will increase the profile of science communication in Poland, and help our students gain a broader European perspective. As part of this project a new bilingual website, Minding Science, will be devoted to humanities-oriented science communication, with podcasts produced and presented by MSc students and Gareth Mitchell, and by colleagues in Poland.

Science Communication Unit in Europe

Post-Brexit, the unit maintains its European reach, through building new relations, such as a new collaboration involving the Unit, Imperial's Faculty of Medicine, the Technology University of Munich, and the Aswan Heart Centre. Launched in May 2021, the project develops teaching resources in the ethics of epidemiology, runs workshops and short courses, and provides a discussion forum for sociologists, scientists and science communicators.



Technology University of Munich

Note of thanks

Gareth Mitchell and Paul Chauncy have gone to great lengths to ensure that students still had 'practicals' safely with social distancing and COVID regulations in mind at all times. The students were truly grateful to have a bit of normality back in their lives - and this was only possible thanks to their dedication and care for the students.

Events

Charmian Brinson Annual Honorary Guest Lectures

2019-20: Helen Sharman: 'From Mars to the Stars'



On Monday 27th January 2020, Dr Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, gave the Charmian Brinson Honorary guest lecture to a live audience of over 250 people in SAFB G16. Helen took us on a journey into space describing how, as a graduate working in industry, she was selected for an international space mission; and how through that experience, she learned to appreciate science in a totally different way.

Helen walked us through her space training, the experience of being launched into orbit and day-to-day activities inside the Mir Space Station. Stressing the importance of communicating science accurately, she dispelled myths about gravity and weightlessness and wowed the audience with the realities of travelling in a Soyuz spacecraft at orbital velocity.

2020-21: Dr Alexander van Tulleken: 'Camps, Cameras and Coronavirus: how not to communicate in a crisis'

Dr Alexander Tulleken (known on TV as 'Dr Xand') has presented many flagship health and science television programmes, often in partnership with his identical twin brother, Dr Christoffer van Tulleken ('Dr Chris'). His primary interest is in health care delivery and public health in wars and disasters, having had first-hand experience of working in humanitarian crises around the world.

In the first ever online Charmian Brinson Honorary Lecture, Dr Xand delivered a thought-provoking talk entitled 'Camps, Cameras and Coronavirus: how not to communicate in a crisis'. Xand touched upon his fascination with medicine as a child before focusing on his experience working in humanitarian medicine in Sudan. Looking at a range of refugee camps and crisis situations, he explored some of the challenges faced by aid providers in managing messaging both locally and internationally and its impact. Dr Xand closed with some fascinating insights into his television work, in particular Operation Ouch, before answering a wide range of questions about crisis management, TV and medicine.



Atención! The Art and Science of Saving Venice

As part of the Humanities@70 programme, the CLCC Foyer Gallery hosted Atención! a display of bill posters and photographs on the challenges faced by Venice, its environment and its people in the age of global warming.

Atención! invites the public to pay attention (atención - in the Venetian dialect) to how local environmental challenges can globally resonate with the challenges brought by fast-paced climate change. The CLCC exhibition was organised by the Evening Classes programme, working with We Are Here Venice and the Barena Bianca art group.

The exhibition was in the CLCC Foyer Gallery from February 2020 to coincide with the Humanities@70 public lecture by Jane da Mosto, Imperial alumna and founder of We are Here Venice. Whilst the public lecture had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the installation remained in place for months, likely reaching an wider audience than initially hoped.



Staff News

KEY APPOINTMENTS

Ana Costa-Pereira

A warm welcome to our new Director, Dr Ana Costa-Pereira who took over from Roberto Trotta in July 2020 - right in the middle of lockdown. Ana joined us from the Faculty of Medicine where she had set up and been Programme Director for the BSc in Medical Biosciences (BMB). Ana continues to spend half her time in Medicine and brings with her valuable departmental and faculty experience with a background in teaching innovation and active learning.



Melanie Mullin

We are delighted to welcome Mel as joint Centre Manger (shared with Claire Stapley). Mel joined CLCC in late February 2020 - 2 weeks before lockdown! Mel brings a wealth of experience with her from a range of institutions including UCL and her knowledge of regulatory matters has been hugely beneficial to CLCC.



Melanie Seddon

Melanie is a member of the Interdisciplinary EdTech Lab and we are delighted that she has been assigned full-time to CLCC to help us with learning design.



Camille Foncel

A warm welcome to Camille who joined the the administrative team in February 2021 as our much-needed full-time Languages Administrator. Camille joined us from the Student Hub, so she has not travelled far.



FAREWELLS

Roberto Trotta

Summer 2020 saw the end of Roberto Trotta's 5 year tenure as CLCC Director. The CLCC staff gathered remotely (see below) to thank him for all his hard work as Director and wish him well with his impending move to Trieste. He was



presented with a voucher for wine tasting at the local wine cellar in Trieste, and we forwarded him a Fortnum and Mason's hamper (pictured right) to remind him of his time in London!

Maggie Causley

After 13 years' service, first as joint Centre Manager and latterly as Strategic Projects Manager, the staff gathered at the Christmas 2019 staff party to say farewell and a big thank you to Maggie (pictured (L) with Claire Stapley) and wish her all the very best in her retirement.



Alison Rew

In February 2020, we were sad to say goodbye to Alison as Centre Manager but we have been lucky to have her help out remotely at busy times during the pandemic.

2020 Summer Party

With the outgoing Director, Roberto Trotta needing a leaving party, the incoming Director, Ana Costa-Pereira needing an introduction, and the CLCC staff needing some much needed socially distanced socialising, the CLCC administrative team tasked themselves with organising a summer virtual party in July 2020. With the help of in-house compere extraordinaire, 'Pauly Wauly', the staff enjoyed a staff and CLCC based quiz, featuring some classic student feedback comments and little known facts about our multi-talented staff. The party was alot of fun - the photograph does not do it justice!





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