

ANNUAL REVIEW DECEMBER 2021

Report Period: August 2020-July 2021

OPRC https://www.open.ac.uk/ centres/psychology/







The Centre represents a progressive approach to psychological research, theory and practice that is in dialogue with the sciences and tightly connected with other social sciences and humanities disciplines. It champions creative, critical and credible psychological research that makes a difference to real social issues, that informs practice, and that inspires a positive vision for living together fairly, equitably and imaginatively. Our engaged research also feeds into scholarship for teaching at the OU

Professor Paul Stenner & Professor Peter Hegarty

Psychology Research Centre (OPRC) Co-Directors





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OPRC CORE TEAM







Research Strands





Dr Johanna Motzkau Senior Lecturer in **Psychology**







Centre Office



Dr Ekaterina Kandelaki **Centre Manager**

Centre Manager



Centre Assistant Sue Cocklin Assistant (Research)





OVERVIEW Open Psychology Research Centre

2020-2021 was the inaugural year for the Open Psychology Research Centre (OPRC) in the <u>School of Psychology & Counselling</u> (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (<u>FASS</u>). Despite COVID-19 it was a productive and successful year. The Centre Management Board (CMB) was set up, the <u>OPRC website</u> designed, launched, and a significant <u>launch event</u> was held in June / July. These have brought new external and internal visibility to research in the School of Psychology & Counselling at The Open University.

OPRC Structure

2020-2021 saw 3 new OPRC related appointments in post:

- Professor Peter Hegarty (Centre Co-Director).
- Dr Ekaterina Kandelaki (Centre Manager).
- Sue Cocklin (Centre Assistant)



Together with Co-Director Professor Paul Stenner they formed Centre's core working

group, meeting weekly and with regular input from Head of School, Dr Jean McAvoy and School Director of Research, Dr Eleni Andreouli.

A Centre Management Board (CMB) was established including: the core working group; Dr Eleni Andreouli (School Director of Research); Professors Darren Langdridge and John Dixon (coordinators of School Research Evaluation);

Dr Simon Clarke (PhD convenor); and the leads of the three research strands (Professor Stephanie Taylor/ Dr Johanna Motzkau, Dr David Kaposi & Dr Lara Frumkin/ Dr Ailsa Strathie). The CMB met monthly to oversee the operations of the OPRC. It reports to the Senior Management Team of the School of Psychology & Counselling. In 2020-21 a sub-group of the CMB formed the launch event planning group, which also benefited from regular input from Sam Toolan (FASS Head of External Engagement), Paula Battle (FASS Comms Manager) and Alison Kirkbright (FASS Comms Senior Manager).







OPRC Website

To give visibility to OPRC a new website was designed in liaison with Alison Kirkbright & Paula Battle (FASS Comms), and assistance



from Natasha Ellis (image sourcing), Ning Li (FASS Web). With design input from Glen Darby a visual brand was developed for use on the website. In June 2021 the website had 994 users and 1,922 page-views.

Open Psychology Research Centre |

OPRC Launch Event

The website hosted material advertising the launch event 'Opening Psychology for Changing Times' held in the week beginning of 28th June and culminating the following week on the 6th July 2021.

This online launch event used the Teams platform and featured 16 presentations from School academics, including 2 longer sessions on research impact issues, and keynote lectures from three external Professors (followed by two discussants).

Most internal presentations were prerecorded to a high standard following dedicated media training and technical support from Janet Sumner (Senior Manager (Media) (OU) with Gerard Giorgi-Coll and Andrew Rix (Andrew Rix Ltd), and Sam Hazel (OU Audio-Visual Team) and have since been published on the OPRC website.

Also included in the launch were 3 new short videos made by each of the strands, and 7 videos in which strand members

interviewed prominent external academics relevant to OPRC, which are also freely available on the OPRC website (transcripts/ captions for accessibility). Eventbrite was used for registration and feedback purposes and 1227 registrations were recorded from 63 countries. 315 attended the opening day, with between 150 and 100 attending each of the other 5 days. Feedback, both informal and formal, was generally excellent. The launch event has:

- given new external and internal visibility to the centre
- helped consolidate external research networks
- made new internal research synergies more visible within the School of Psychology & Counselling
- provided the resource of a legacy of accessible high quality research presentations
- built relationships particularly between the OPRC team and Comms colleagues in the faculty.

I welcome the Centre, it's full of OU-ness, which means it's got a mission and it's part of what we are not just as a University but as a social movement, indeed, not part of what we are, but making what we are... It's built on a tradition at the OU of excellent and engaged psychology Research

Professor Tim Blackman
Vice Chancellor (OU)







The launch event provided a core focus for extending visibility via blogging (by July 21st the blog had 440 followers and 1000-4400 views per month) and tweeting (19,108 Twitter 'impressions', 297 'engagements' and 58 're-tweets' between June and July) with the media team releasing blogs on all elements of the launch.

We hope that the creation of the Centre will, in turn, help our psychology and counselling colleagues to be even more successful than they already are – delivering cutting edge research that is well-known for its interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity; its commitment to furthering wellbeing; and in particular, how well it supports the OU's well-known mission of Openness and commitment to social justice

<u>Professor Ian Fribbance</u> Executive Dean (FASS-OU)

NOTE: Summary of the three strands' annual report is provided below (p. 8)

NOTE: See more about the OPRC social media activities below (pp. 9-12 and 16-20)





WHAT NEXT?

OPRC Plans for the Next Academic Year





Appoint two new post-Doctoral researchers into its core team with a brief to set up a viable student research participant pool, which will allow the development of synergies between research and OU teaching programmes.



Grow and enhance the PhD Programme and use OPRC to promote the visibility of PhD student research.



Establish an international Centre Advisory Board (CAB).



Host a CAB event inviting constructive feedback about our objectives and activities.



Take stock of the results of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework and plan accordingly.



Distribute and monitor OPRC funding to foster research growth and impact and increase the quality and quantity of research outputs.



Develop possibilities for transdisciplinary collaborations.



Develop media potentiality by taking responsibility for the School of Psychology & Counselling blog and twitter account, further generating news items and events for the website, and making reports public.



Begin development of a series of research presentations by OPRC academics for undergraduate students.





SUMMARY OF THE STRANDS' ANNUAL REPORT

OPRC research roughly divides into three main fields, culture and social psychology (CuSP), forensic cognition (FCRG) and the psychology of health and wellbeing (PHeW). Each is organised into a *research strand* led by one or more academics from the School of Psychology & Counselling (see above for 2020-21 strand leads). Some research related activities were common to all three strands. For example, during 2020-2021 all three strands organised:

- a) Regular online seminars involving presentations both from their internal members and from invited external scholars and collaborators.
- b) Meetings to create opportunities for PhD students and early career researchers to present and develop their research.
- c) Sessions to discuss research papers and bids in progress.
- d) Contributions to the launch event. For example, each strand produced a short animation designed to succinctly sum up its identity and research foci (see 'strand videos' below), and members of each produced video interviews with key research collaborators and inspirations. These assets were made available OPRC/ School/ OU wide and have been promoted to audiences on various platforms, such as Module and Qualifications sites, to the event registrants via Eventbrite, students, OU Associate Lecturers (Als) and alumni.
- e) Up to a hundred journal articles, books and chapters were published across all three strands in the 2020-2021 reporting year, details of which are available at The Open University online repository: http://oro.open.ac.uk/.

The next section displays the Centre launch event media assets.





OPRC LAUNCH RELATED MEDIA ASSETS

Culture and Social Psychology (CuSP)



The images below show the strands' <u>animated strand videos</u> and <u>pre-launch</u> <u>video interviews</u> with external academics produced as part of the <u>OPRC launch</u> event activities:



CuSP animated strand video



Part 1/3: <u>Critical</u>
reflections on
psychology: cultural
distance and
encounters with the
'other'



Open Psychology Prelude: Professors Sonia Livingstone & Paul Stenner discuss the Psychology of Media



Part 2/3: Reflections on critical psychology: What kind of discipline is it?



The role of psychology for understanding present and future social challenges



Part 3/3: <u>Translating</u> psychology': contesting naturalised 'truths' in psychology

Forensic Cognition Research Group (FCRG)





FCRG animated strand video



Applying
psychology: Dr
Lara Frumkin in
conversation with
Professor Andrew
Silk



Professor Cathy
Mondloch - Dr Sarah
Laurence discuss the
Psychology of Face
Perception





Psychology of Health and Well-Being (PHeW)





PHeW animated strand video



Dr Karen Hagan in conversation with Professor Siobhan O'Neill



On being open - Dr David Kaposi in conversation with Professor Peter Fonagy



Dr Heather Price:
Conversations across
roles and hierarchies
(Mulberry Bush
therapeutic community)

Presentations Delivered at the Centre Launch Event

A positive legacy? Creative subjectivities in the wake of the pandemic

Beyond Milgram: Towards a Theory of Implicit
Violence

Can the Public Rule the World: Public Dialogue
Psychology Collaboratory

<u>Captive Geographies: Places, Identities and the 'Time-Geography' of Sectarian Segregation in Belfast</u>

Client Perspectives on Preferences in Psychotherapy: A Consensual Qualitative Research

Professor Stephanie Taylor



Dr David Kaposi



Dr Kesi Mahendran



Professor John Dixon



Dr Gina Di Malta







Contestation at the borderlands between migration, childhood and care: An exploration of child language brokers and lone child migrants

Critical and Discursive Psychological
Approaches to Bullying

Harmful Evidence and Evidencing Harm in the Criminal Justice System

Informing Reform: Does the Not Proven Verdict Have a Place in a Modern Courtroom?

Mobile Phone Use by Drivers: What We Know, and How to Share Such Inconvenient Truths

Past, Present and Future: How We Use History to Make Sense of Politics

Re-Imagining Group Differences in Scientific

Psychology

Stories of sexual citizenship: conviction and critique

The Experience of Time in Pandemics and Beyond: Views from an Open Psychology

Professor Sarah Crafter



Dr Karen Hagan



Professor Graham Pike



Dr Lee Curley



Dr Gemma Briggs



Dr Sandra Obradovic



Professor Peter Hegarty



Professor Darren Langdridge



Professor Paul Stenner







Symposium: <u>Using Research to Impact</u>

<u>Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice and</u>

<u>Mental Health Policy</u>

with Dr Felicitas Rost (Society for Psychotherapy Research), Dr Clare Symons, and Matthew Smith-Lilley (of BACP) <u>Professor Naomi Moller</u> and Dr Andreas Vossler



We marked the final day of this event with three invited keynote talks. Each keynote was followed by commentaries and Q&A lead by members of the Open Psychology Research Centre's three strands.

Energetic Openings: Intersectional Psychology and Social Justice Trajectories

Professor Ann Phoenix (Keynote speaker)

<u>Dr Johanna Motzkau</u> and Dr (now Prof.) <u>Jovan Byford</u> (Discussion)







Revenge vs Rapport in Securing Information from High Value Detainees

<u>Dr Zoe Walkington</u> and <u>Dr Jim Turner</u> (Discussion)

ligh Value Detainees

Professor Laurence Alison (Keynote speaker)







Prof Helen Spandler

The Politics of Mental Health: Taking Experiential Knowledge Seriously

(Keynote speaker)

<u>Dr Simon Clarke</u> and <u>Dr Laura McGrath</u> (Discussion)











LIVE PROJECTS AND FUNDING SUCCESSES



Prof. Rose Capdevila and Dr Lisa Lazard

Intergenerational familial relationships: Playing digitally across distance (RES)



Prof. John Dixon

Understanding participation in 'non-normative' collective action: A case study of the destruction of a public statue associated with historical racism (British Academy)



Prof. Rose Capdevila and Dr Lisa Lazard Children's experiences of parental online sharing (eNurture/ESRC)

Prof. John Dixon

Understanding participation in 'non-normative' collective action to remove public statues associated with historical racism (SRIF)



Prof. Sarah Crafter

E-PLAYS (Enhancing Pragmatic

Language skills for Young children with Social communication impairment) trial; evaluation of a collaborative computer intervention (NIHR)



Prof. Peter Hegarty

Stigma
Capture: DCDRelated
Stereotyping
Captured by
Augmented
Reality, Motion
Capture and
Social
Psychology
(OU Pump
Priming)



Prof. Sarah Crafter

Empowering young language brokers for inclusion in diversity (EYLBID) (European Commission ERASMUS)



Prof. Peter Hegarty

G-VERSITY -Achieving Gender Diversity (European Commission)







Prof. Sarah Crafter

Networking the Educational World: Across Boundaries for Communitybuilding (NEW -ABC) (European Commission Horizon 2020)

the Move (CCoM)



Dr David Kaposi

Milgram and beyond: Towards a psychosocial I theory of violence Mid-Career Fellowship Scheme (ISRF)





Prestigious fellowship £50k fund award goes to Dr David Kaposi to "solve" the Milgram enigma and extend work into the theory of implicit violence



Prof. Sarah Crafter

Dr Lee Curley with Dr Catriona Havard and Prof. Graham Pike

Super recognisers: is bias their Kryptonite? (British Academy)

Related:

Research grant to Dr Lee Curley and colleagues to focus on bias in 'super-



Professor Naomi Moller

Before, During and After Adult Gender Identity Specialist Services: Improving the integration of care for trans adults (NIHR)



Prof. Graham Pike with



Dr Catriona Havard and Dr Ailsa Strathie

CPRL Investigating the emergence of expertise in forensic face matching over time (OU-Police OU **Policing** Consortium)



<u>Dr Lara Frumkin</u>

Digital Technologies, Power and Control (EPSRC SPRITE+)





Take the Digital Technologies, Power and Control survey



Dr Gemma Briggs

To make resources for the NPCC mobile phone enforcement campaign (Road Safety Trust)

Dr Gemma Briggs

Evaluation of NDORS speed awareness online courses (UKROeD)





SYNERGIES BETWEEN TEACHING, RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

OPRC is a Centre for Research but being part of a research active School has direct benefits for OU teaching activity. PHeW strand members who have strong links to the Society for Psychotherapy Research (SPR) and British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP), have fed



their research and practice expertise in counselling and psychotherapy into the development of a new level-2 teaching module (D241). They have also produced an OpenLearn module on online counselling which was shortlisted for a THE award

FCRG members also have strong applied connections to policing practices (e.g.: eyewitness testimony). FCRG members have strong connections to The Open University Centre for Policing Research and Learning and promote the exchange of knowledge and collaborative working with police forces across the UK. FCRG members have been busy producing a new forensic psychology MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) to add to current offering on FutureLearn. Along with CuSP members FCRG research has also fed into updating the Level 2 teaching module Living Psychology: From the everyday to the extraordinary (DD210).

Across CuSP, members of the strand bring their research into their teaching. CuSP research features in modules across the School, including DE200 (Investigating psychology 2), and DD317 (Advancing social psychology) as well as existing and upcoming postgraduate level courses. CuSP members have also led on the development of qualitative research methods teaching across all three levels of our degree schemes,



drawing on their expertise in thematic, narrative, discursive and phenomenological methods. They have developed a new OpenLearn course on *Applying to study for a PhD in Psychology* and expanded a resource for *Conceptual and Historical Issues in Psychology* (CHIPs).



OPRC MEDIA

Open Psychology Research Centre Website

The <u>OPRC Website</u> was launched in February 2021. Below is a selection of News Items displayed on the website between **March 2021 - July 2021**.



Research grant to Dr Lee Curley and colleagues to focus on bias in 'super-recognisers'

Dr Lee Curley and colleagues have been awarded a BA/Leverhulme small grant for a research project 'Super-recognisers: Is bias their kryptonite?' aimed to investigate if individuals with superior facial recognition abilities could be biased towards the wrong face when making perceptual decisions.



<u>Professor Sarah Crafter to co-lead UK activity on new</u> <u>Horizon-funded project</u>

Professor Sarah Crafter joins 'Networking the educational world – Across boundaries for community-building', a research project seeking to address significant educational inequalities, discrimination and barriers to integration faced by children and young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme and led by Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna.



£50k funding to Dr Lara Frumkin for digital technologies, power and control project

Dr Lara Frumkin, Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Co-Director of the Harm and Evidence Research Collective (HERC) has secured funding of almost £50k to lead a 2year project looking at digital technologies, power and control. Funded from SPRITE+, an EPSRC funded NetworkPlus addressing trust, identity, privacy, and security with a focus on digital contexts.



Bad people or people who do bad things?

A new ten-part OU/BBC podcast series of Bad People has launched and will be available weekly on BBC Sounds. FASS academics Dr Camilla Elphick and Dr Zoë Walkington consulted on the series, which also features Zoë and Stephen Akpabio-Klementowski as interviewed quests.







Psychology research cited by a motion in the Scottish Parliament on the Scots law

A motion in the Scottish Parliament on the Scots law, three verdict system (guilty, not guilty, not proven) cited recent research from the School of Psychology & Counselling. The research is led by Lee Curley, James Munro, Lara Frumkin and Jim Turner on jury decision making and verdict.

You're invited to the launch of the Open Psychology Research Centre



Located within the School of Psychology & Counselling in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) at The Open University, the new Open Psychology Research Centre that creates an environment conducive to psychological research with a distinctively 'open' character, launched in June-July 2021.



Prestigious fellowship £50k fund award goes to Dr David Kaposi to "solve" the Milgram enigma and extend work into the theory of implicit violence

Dr David Kaposi has been awarded the prestigious ISRF Mid-Career Fellowship for his project 'Milgram and beyond: Towards a theory of implicit violence'. The £50k fellowship will enable David to complete his pathbreaking empirical work on Stanley Milgram's widely known 'Obedience to authority' experiments and extend his findings towards a general psychosocial theory of implicit violin.

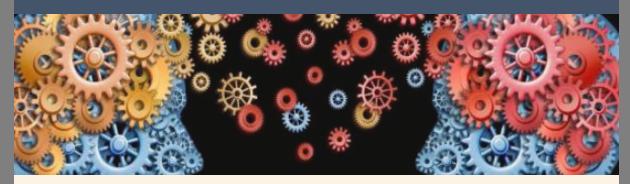
School of Psychology & Counselling

Open Psychology Research Centre





School Blogs in Wordpress



In the reporting period August 2020 - July 2021, 118 school blogs were posted in Wordpress, led by Professor Stephanie Taylor.

Blogging is a useful way of reaching internal and external audiences for a range of purposes, such as announcing the successful funding of new research projects or the publication of significant new research findings.

Some of School blog highlights during the 2020-2021 reporting year include:

Introducing the Journal of Social and Political Psychology

We continue to introduce journals on which the School's academics have editorial roles. <u>Dr Kesi Mahendran</u> is a section editor on the Journal of Social and Political Psychology (JSPP).



How to engage with people who believe conspiracy theories

In uncertain times, conspiracy theories proliferate, such as the 'anti-vax' scares that are now circulating online. In a new article in The Conversation, Dr (now Prof.) Jovan Byford writes about how to engage with people who believe conspiracy theories.



Madhouse and the Whole Thing There: A PhD Story

School academic <u>Dr Simon Clarke</u>, Lecturer in Critical Mental Health, has just successfully completed his second PhD. Here Simon demonstrates an autoethnographic approach in a series of short extracts.



She's so vain? OU Psychologists explore how young women understand their own selfies

In a recent article, <u>Dr Lisa Lazard</u> and <u>Dr (now Prof.)</u> <u>Rose Capdevila</u> explore how young women make sense of selfies against social disapproval of this practice as narcissistic.







REF 2021 – What it is and why it matters

<u>Professor Darren Langdridge</u> explains the Research Excellence Framework and its importance for academic research, including in the School of Psychology & Counselling.



Stitches and stories: a different kind of research impact

Academic researchers want their research findings to have an effect on the social world: this is referred to as 'impact'. A short film records an example from the work of academics in the School of Psychology & Counselling, and the School of Arts and Humanities.



<u>Prof. John Dixon, Dr Heather Richardson, Dr Karen</u> <u>Hagan</u>

<u>Panic Buying and Blame Shifting: Responses to the Pandemic</u>

During this second lockdown, <u>Dr Sebastian Bartos</u> from the School reflects on responses to the pandemic, and social exclusion.



Introducing the Journal of Psychosocial Studies

We continue to introduce journals on which the School's academics have editorial roles. <u>Dr David W Jones</u>, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, introduces the Journal of Psychosocial Studies.



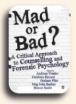
Freud and sexuality

In a new article, <u>Dr David Kaposi</u> from the School explores a little known but highly important paper on sexuality by Sigmund Freud.



How a module changed my perspective on the world

How does your OU study of psychology and counselling inform your perspective on the world? Jade Howe, a student on module DD310 Counselling and Forensic Psychology, writes about an incident she witnessed.



Nonverbal coordination increases with lie difficulty

The *Times* and the *New Scientist* have recently published articles about a research paper entitled 'A liar and a copycat', co-authored by <u>Professor John Dixon</u> of The Open University School of Psychology & Counselling.







Is psychology a science?

Is psychology a science? This question is less straightforward than it might first seem. <u>Professor Paul Stenner</u> writes about some of the traditions of thinking relevant to the question.



New research by <u>Dr Sandra Obradovic</u> and colleagues examines the contributions of behavioural science to lockdown policy and the UK's Covid-19 response.

Modules under lockdown: Investigating Psychology 1

As the impact of the pandemic on our lives goes on through full lockdowns and lesser restrictions, the OU's teaching also continues. Today we begin a new series about how the School's modules are responding to Covid conditions. Our first post is from DE100 *Investigating Psychology 1*.

Brief reflections on a royal death

There have been criticisms of the excessive media coverage of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. <u>Professor Stephanie Taylor</u> risks adding to the discussion with some reflections linked to discursive and narrative psychology.

<u>The 'Bad People' podcast: Why people do bad things</u>

<u>Dr Zoe Walkington</u> and <u>Dr Camilla Elphick</u> from the School introduce a BBC/OU co-production.

<u>Opening Psychology launch highlights – Research in the 'real world'</u>

To launch the new psychology research centre, we are running a programme of online events from 28th June to 6th July. On Friday 2nd July, the focus will be on research in the School that has 'real world' applications.

<u>Openness, psychoanalysis, mentalisation and trust: An</u> interview with Professor Peter Fonagy

<u>Dr David Kaposi</u>, a psychotherapist and the leader of the Psychology of Health and Wellbeing (PHeW) strand in the School talks to the renowned psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist, <u>Professor Peter Fonagy</u> about openness, in relation to psychoanalysis, mentalisation, and epistemic trust.





















FIND OUT MORE

OPRC Website: https://www.open.ac.uk/centres/psychology/

P&C School Blogs: https://oupsychology.wordpress.com/
P&C School Twitter: https://twitter.com/OU_Psychology

Email Research Centre: <u>FASS-Psych-Co-ResearchCentre-Enq@open.ac.uk</u>
Email Centre Co-Directors: <u>paul.stenner@open.ac.uk</u>/<u>peter.hegarty@open.ac.uk</u>