

HumSci News

Keeping Friends of Human Sciences in Touch

September 2014

Welcome from the Head of the Institute

A hearty summer greeting to all our friends.

The academic year has ended and, with a number of items of news to impart, and with this being the end of my 3-year stint as Chair of the Institute, I wanted to share a mixed bag of news with you before handing over to the next incumbent.



First, I want to mention this year's Finals. We are a smaller cohort these days (usually around 30 students per year) but a fantastic 8 students out of a total of 25 gained First Class Honours. There were also no 2(ii)s. This is a wonderful achievement and demonstrates both the calibre of the students who apply to read Human Sciences and the quality of teaching they receive. Congratulations all round!

This good news is tempered by the shock vote of the New College Governing Body in mid-June to cease admitting students to read Human Sciences with immediate effect. This decision was triggered by the resignation of Dr Tak Wing Chan (their sociologist and Director of Studies for Human Sciences) upon his being offered a professorship at Warwick University. The decision was taken despite strong representations made to the college by our Head of School, the Head of the Sociology Department and by prominent New College alumni and Fellows. The New College JCR also voted for the college to continue to offer Human Sciences. As you can imagine, this is quite a blow to a small subject such as ours and the remaining nine colleges who continue to admit Human Scientists will be encouraged to consider taking a few more.

Finally, I said at the outset that this is my last year of a 3-year stint as Chair of Human Sciences. I will be the Vice-Chair for the next three years and will still be teaching for a range of colleges and be a Director of Studies. It has been a pleasure to be at the centre of things in a period which saw us celebrate our 40th birthday with lectures in the Pauling Centre, a congratulatory address by the VC and a wonderful dinner in All Souls. It has also been a period which has seen the appointment of five new lectureships within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) of which our Institute is a part. These new appointments all carry direct teaching responsibilities in relation to Human Sciences and are:

- Morgan Clarke at Keble College (social anthropology with medical anthropology)
- Emma Cohen at Wadham College (cognitive anthropology)
- Alexandra Alvergne at Harris Manchester College (biocultural anthropology)
- Chris Wilson at Nuffield College (demography)
- Laura Fortunato at Magdalen College (evolutionary anthropology)

Morgan, Emma and Alex introduced themselves in our last newsletter and you can read more about Chris Wilson and Laura Fortunato below. A further appointment is envisaged within SAME during the next academic year.

From this you will see that Human Sciences – despite the blow of New College’s withdrawal – is in very rude health and we will overcome the setbacks. My successor as Chair of the Institute is Naomi Freud (St Catz, 1988) and she will be heading up the next Newsletter. Naomi shares the same commitment to Human Sciences as I do and has organised our own Human Sciences UNIQ Summer School week which took place in July and was designed to provide a taste of studying Human Sciences at Oxford for pupils who would not normally think of applying. The Institute will be in her capable hands for the next three years.

Amanda Palmer
Chair of The Institute of Human Sciences

Welcome to New Postholders

Dr Laura Fortunato



Laura Fortunato took up the post of Associate Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology in September 2013 and is a Fellow of Magdalen College. She is also a Research Fellow at the Santa Fe Institute. Laura studied Biological Sciences at the University of Padova, Italy (*Laurea*, 2003) and Anthropology at University College London (MRes, 2004; PhD, 2009). Between 2010 and 2013 she held an Omidyar Fellowship at the Santa Fe Institute. Laura's research aims to understand the evolution of human social and cultural behaviour. Drawing on her

interdisciplinary background in biology and anthropology, her work focuses on kinship and marriage systems, cultural evolution, and social complexity. Research website: www.santafe.edu/~fortunato

Dr Chris Wilson

Chris Wilson joined the University as Associate Professor in Demography and Fellow of Nuffield College in September. He obtained a BA followed by a PhD in History from Cambridge University and has held academic posts at the London School of Economics, The Australian National University, The Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenbrug, Austria, and, most recently, at the University of St Andrews. His research focuses on long-term demographic change, especially on fertility change, with his work on the fertility transition being especially influential: his article on 'Demand Theories of the Fertility Transition: an Iconoclastic View' (1987) is the most widely cited article ever published on fertility in *Population Studies*, Europe's most influential demographic journal.



Obituary: Dr Corri Waitt

To the great sadness and shock of her friends, Dr Corri Waitt lost her battle with cancer and died on Friday 21 March, 2014 at the age of 38. Corri was a remarkably dynamic early career scientist in the Department of Zoology working on animal welfare and was Director of Studies in Human Sciences at St Catherine's College where she taught many Human Scientists. In addition to her scientific achievements, Corri helped to develop the school's education programme at the Food Animal Initiative (FAI) at the University Farm at Wytham. She also launched an initiative called FarmAbility which gives adults with learning difficulties experience of practical farming and animal welfare; for this she was awarded the prestigious Grahame Maher prize for projects that make sustainable and lasting change. Corri also wrote a popular science book 'The Wisdom of Chickens' which was awarded the Royal Society of Literature's Jerwood Award. Corri achieved so much in a short time and made a lasting difference to many people.



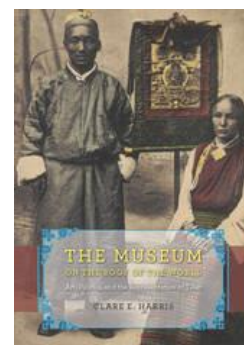
Photograph by Adrian Pope

Congratulations to...



Professor Marian Dawkins, Animal Behaviour Lecturer and former Director of Studies for Human Sciences at Somerville College, who was awarded a CBE for services to animal welfare in the New Year's Honours List. Marian has also been made a Fellow of the Royal Society which describes her as "one of the most influential scientists in the field of animal welfare." Her research relating to the welfare of farmed birds has influenced policy and practice across Europe and beyond.

Professor Clare Harris, Professor of Visual Anthropology and Fellow of Magdalen College who won the 2014 E. Gene Smith Inner Asia Book Prize of the Association for Asian Studies (AA). The prize was awarded for her book *The Museum on the Roof of the World: Art, Politics, and the Representation of Tibet* published by the University of Chicago Press. The annual Book prize honours outstanding and innovative scholarship across discipline and country of specialization for a book on Inner Asia published in the preceding year.



Dr Stuart Basten, Associate Professor of Social Policy in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, Fellow of Green Templeton College and Tutor in Demography, who has received the second prize in the ESRC's Outstanding International Impact category. The award was for his research into Asian fertility which helped convince the United Nations to revise its forecasts on future population trends with particularly large effects for Pacific Asian economies.

EWA: the fruits of my engagement with Human Sciences

Dr Andy Gosler, Human Science Lecturer in Biological Conservation



In August 2013 I received the wonderful news from the Arts and Humanities Research Council that my application for funding to set up the Ethno-ornithology World Archive had been successful and we'd been awarded the full amount requested of £600K. We are funded by the ARHC under a programme called *Connected Communities*: in our case connecting communities of birds and people.

I'd had the germ of the idea two years earlier while listening to a lecture by Dr Josep del Hoyo of Lynx Edicions at the British Birdwatching Fair at Rutland. Josep was talking about the forthcoming online edition of Handbook of Birds of the World, *HBWAlive* and how it wouldn't be constrained by space as had the Handbook itself. I'd written the Paridae family account for the Handbook, but had been frustrated by the lack of space to write about human interactions with the parids (which include Blue

Tit and Great Tit and many other popular species). Maybe, I thought, we could use *HBWAlive* to actually glean culturally relevant information about birds direct from the public (real people) – *globally!* I put the idea to Josep and was delighted by his positive response. A few weeks later, I discussed this casually in a pub in Oxford with my old friend John Fanshawe from BirdLife International. To my delight and amazement, he phoned me a few days later to say he'd been talking about my idea with colleagues at BirdLife and they saw huge potential for conservation through this. From that moment, the project gained momentum. Every time John and I talked, we realised how much more we could do with this and that it needed to have its own existence rather than being simply part of someone else's website. I also realised that the archive needed a name and a logo. The name came from my looking at a website of Hawaiian bird names – 'ewa' ewa is the Sooty Tern, and the logo was produced in a weekend by another friend, Colin Wilkinson, a terrific graphic designer who works in conservation planning at the RSPB. It's amazing how the archive became real once it had a name and I received Colin's inspiring logo.

So it had taken two years of planning, from the germ of an idea to the grant award. There are now ten people working on this either directly as full-time staff or consultants, and many more around the world setting up networks. Our paid staff consists of a post-doc anthropologist/ethnobiologist, post-doc linguist, post-doc ornithologist and a web-manager. Four others are on consultancy, including John at BirdLife, and we are linked to a network of linguists, ethnobiologists and conservationists through the Plants, Animals and Words initiative set up by linguists at SOAS with help from us and Dr Raj Puri at University of Kent. We also have an Advisory Board of academics and indigenous people to help us get it right.

EWA will be massive, as a research facility, as a conservation facility, and as a facility for people around the globe who want to know what birds mean to others globally. It is totally the fruit of my engagement with Human Sciences, i.e., this is what you get when you have an ornithologist talking to anthropologists and teaching conservation to Human Scientists. To help this to happen, I went 50:50 Zoology : Anthropology two years ago, and the whole project is underwritten by an MOU between my two departments, BirdLife International and Lynx Edicions, who are still heavily involved and committed to EWA.

Some examples of what we'll be able to achieve through EWA are: 1) with the aid of a conservation NGO, an illiterate child in an indigenous community wants to access the oral histories submitted to EWA by her deceased grandmother, where she talks about her love of birds as a child, and how her environment changed through her lifetime; 2) a conservation biologist is interested in discovering the cultural significance to local people of an endangered species so as to work more closely with them to conserve it; 3) a linguistic anthropologist is interested in the cultural significance of birds in the language of a particular community or tribe to test a theory that birdsong was instrumental in the development of their language.

EWA will be largely crowd-sourced and crowd funded, and is due to go live later this year, but to follow us please go to ewa-archive.net.

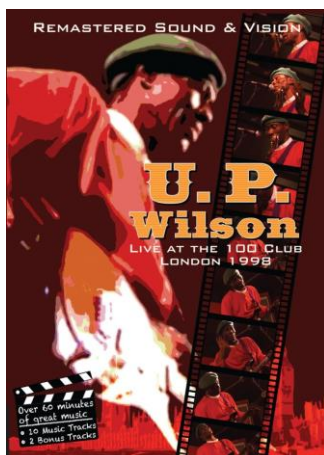
What we say about EWA is this:

Birds inspire people, their cultures and faiths, whilst also acting as important environmental indicators. Many people possess knowledge of birds that is rooted in a cultural, rather than in a scientific, context. This knowledge is largely undocumented, but is no less valid than scientific knowledge. Being able to share that knowledge can inspire and empower communities through the realization that their knowledge of birds, and the birds themselves, are important to others.

EWA establishes a new paradigm in bird conservation. Working with Project Partner Birdlife International, the largest conservation collaborative in the world working in 126 countries, the EWA project will promote the engagement of all people in bird conservation by sharing their knowledge and understanding of birds, and helping to safeguard cultural identities. EWA is founded on the recognition that humans everywhere are inspired culturally, practically and spiritually by birds. EWA will collect culturally relevant knowledge of birds, including local and traditional ecological knowledge, and share this globally via the Internet and other media. EWA will engage with indigenous people, local communities, conservationists and academics, and their institutions, to promote bird conservation through the recognition, affirmation and celebration of traditional and contemporary knowledge, and the environmental stewardship ethic inherent within diverse cultural traditions.

Patience pays off for one Human Scientist

Dr Amanda Palmer, Outgoing Chair of the Institute of Human Sciences, Lecturer in Sociology at St Catherine's College, and Director of Studies for Human Sciences and Fellow of Harris Manchester College



It is said that patience is a virtue, but perhaps a twenty year wait to see a project come to fruition is taking the concept a bit too far!

It was 1995 when myself as interviewer/ethnographer/photographer/videographer joined forces with two people from the world of broadcast television to form *Blues Archive* dedicated to documenting the life histories and musical talents of blues musicians. We set about this because too many bluesmen (and women) were dying in obscurity without recognition and without their music being celebrated. The original team of three later became a duo, myself and Paul Reed, a BBC (and subsequently freelance) documentary cameraman. Together we filmed and photographed American and British blues musicians

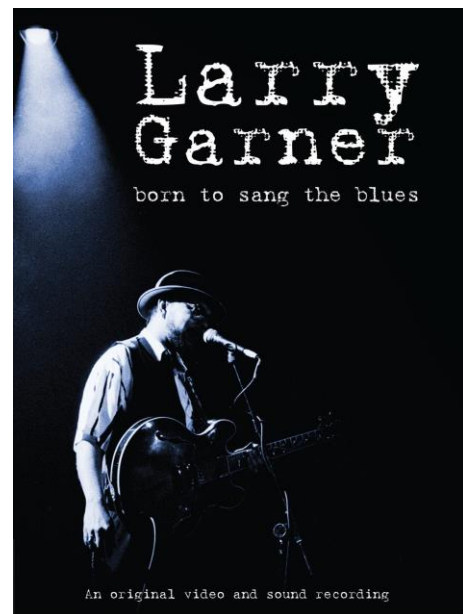
throughout the length and breadth of Britain for six years. We filmed performances in both obscure and famous clubs, at major festivals and in large concert halls, and we filmed extensive life story interviews in pokey broom cupboards, backstage dressing rooms, hotel rooms, and bars. And sometimes we put artists up (with the whole band!) at home, ferried hot meals to them at recording studios and ironed their stage clothes in order to create enough space in their schedules to sit down with us for a filmed interview. We also travelled to European festivals and to Chicago, Detroit, Baton Rouge and New Orleans in search of gigging musicians to record their stories.

If this all sounds glamorous, it wasn't. Negotiating access to artists needed delicate handling, there were some wasted journeys, many long hours on the road, late night working and worst of all, as non-smokers, coming home at 3am reeking of smoke given that we were filming before the UK's ban on smoking in public places. It was also very costly. We were not able to attract any funding for this project so it became a complete 'labour of love' with countless hours spent working our equipment into the ground as we compiled hundreds of hours of broadcast-standard footage together with thousands of photographic images.

Early attempts to interest terrestrial TV companies in blues documentaries came to nothing. Programme samples and ideas were submitted but none accepted and the feedback, 'Sorry, we've already done jazz' was a frequent frustration. Why? Because blues ain't jazz! Nothing like it! So we settled for a regular column in a British blues magazine, supplying photographs for magazines and 'coffee table' books and financing albums for a handful of artists we had recorded.

The dynamic blues scene of the 1990s that provided so many artists with a living began to wane after the Millennium and this coincided with considerable 'burn-out' and despondency on our part. Our *Blues Archive* existed but was put on ice. In the years since then there has been plenty to do. Human Scientists to teach for me, and cataloguing and conserving our collection for Paul. Today, it turns out that those intervening years have made all the difference. The passage of time has meant that our contemporary archive is now a historical archive capturing times past and, as such, is attracting attention. Modern day digital and Web technology is also proving its worth to us. We are now able, in conjunction with the classic blues label, *JSP Records*, to cut and produce DVDs for artists we filmed in the 1990s show-casing performances from their hey days and presenting their life stories in their own words. We are moving into the world of downloadable tracks on iTunes and are in the process of making our presence known via Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/Blues-Archive/338324939657661. Our own YouTube channel and presence on LinkedIn are in development.

It is gratifying to see our archive developing into something – a historical resource, a celebration of lyrics that speak of lives lived in hard times and a voice for some who would otherwise die in obscurity. Those artists who are still alive and touring (many are not) are delighted at their new-found publicity. For those who are not, our footage preserves their memory and confirms their contribution to the blues. For myself, it is hard to describe the satisfaction I get from seeing all our efforts not wasted, but coming together at last in a body of work that captures a particular blues era which can now be preserved indefinitely.



Losing a loved one to suicide: a systematic review of the impact of suicide bereavement on mental health and suicide risk

Dr Alexandra Pitman, a Human Sciences Alumni and Clinical Research Fellow, UCL Division of Psychiatry writes about her study

Having graduated in Human Sciences at Oxford in 1995 I went on to study Health Policy, Planning and Financing at the LSHTM, followed by Medicine at Imperial College, and am now a trainee psychiatrist at UCL. For my PhD at UCL I chose to investigate the impact of suicide bereavement on the mental health and social functioning of young adults. This followed concerns about the clinical effects of exposure to the suicide of a close friend or relative, which were reflected in the 2002 and the 2012 suicide prevention strategies for England (1; 2), but with few controlled studies having measured these effects. One previous systematic review, covering publications up to 2005 (3), had found no significant differences in general mental health, depression, PTSD symptoms, anxiety and suicidal ideation between people bereaved by suicide and those bereaved by other causes. However it did find that people bereaved by suicide reported significantly higher scores on overall grief distress, and on specific dimensions of grief, such as stigma, shame, blame, rejection and concealment of the causes of death.

I conducted a cross-sectional study of 3,432 adults sampled from 37 UK higher education institutions, comparing those bereaved by suicide to those bereaved by sudden natural causes of death, and those bereaved by sudden unnatural causes of death. The study is currently being prepared for journal submission, but below I report the findings of my systematic review of studies published until 2013, which was recently published in *The Lancet Psychiatry* (4). Together with my co-authors, Professor Annette Erlangsen at Mental Health Centre Copenhagen, Professor David Osborn in the UCL Division of Psychiatry and Professor Michael King in the UCL Division of Psychiatry, we followed PRISMA guidelines (5) to conduct a systematic literature search of controlled studies measuring the effect of suicide bereavement on mortality, mental health and social functioning. Using appropriate search terms to define exposure and a search of Medline, EMBASE, PsycINFO, and CINAHL, 7,504 records were identified, of which 57 satisfied strict inclusion criteria. These had been conducted on samples in Europe, Japan and North America.

Results from these studies suggested that exposure to suicide of a close contact is associated with a number of adverse health and social outcomes, but findings were specific to the relationship to the deceased. An increased risk was suicide was apparent in partners (6) and mothers (7) bereaved by suicide, but had not been investigated in other kinship groups. An increased risk of requiring admission to psychiatric care was found in parents bereaved by the suicide of their offspring compared with those bereaved by offspring motor vehicle crash, but the control group had a higher risk of depression (8). There was indirect evidence for an increased risk of depression in offspring bereaved by the suicide of a mother (9). Few studies investigated the impact of sibling suicide, but there was indirect evidence for no differences in risk of admission for depression after sibling suicide bereavement compared with sibling non-suicide death (9). No studies compared the impact of peer suicide to that of the loss of a friend due to other causes. Twenty one studies identified by our search found no differences in grief intensity, stress reactions or psychopathology between people bereaved by suicide and those bereaved by sudden violent deaths. However, a number of studies we cited provided evidence for increased scores on measures of rejection and shame in people bereaved by suicide from samples of mixed kinship groups compared with bereavement by other violent causes.

In our discussion we observed that policy recommendations for support services after suicide bereavement rely heavily on the voluntary sector, with the English suicide prevention strategy

making a vague suggestion that GPs should be vigilant to the vulnerability of family members after a suicide (2). We also noted that those bereaved by non-suicide violent causes of death might also represent a population vulnerable to poor mental health outcomes. The article generated interesting correspondence in the journal, as well as press releases from Cruse Bereavement Care and Samaritans. The next stage for me is to submit my own cross-sectional study for publication. I will then analyse the considerable volume of qualitative data collected in that study. My analysis will present the views of a population of bereaved adults on the support they received post-bereavement, describing those sources of support that are perceived to be effective and acceptable by people bereaved by each cause of sudden death. The findings of this analysis will be used to identify the components of an intervention perceived to be acceptable and beneficial, so that a trial of its cost-effectiveness might be designed.

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Human Sciences Symposium: 2014

Abidine Sakande, 1st year Human Scientist at St John's College

This year, for our annual Human Sciences Symposium, we decided to challenge our speakers to answer a broad, topical question: is "Sustainable Humanity: Dream or Reality?". In typical Human Sciences tradition, we brought in different speakers from different fields, including the perspectives of academics, activists and business brains in an attempt to get to grips with our question. Professor Chris Wilson began by speaking on the issue of human population size, asking 'What is a sustainable population and how close are we to achieving it?' Next, ex-Human Sciences tutor Dr John Odling-Smee gave his first ever 'blind lecture' since retiring due to losing his sight recently, and enlightened the audience with his talk entitled 'Niche construction – an alternative framework for human sustainability'. This was followed by a talk from Philip Stewart (a Human Sciences tutor until 2006), who discussed the history of human economic systems and their relation (or not) with the ecological environment we inhabit, with the title 'Banking in the Interest of the Biosphere'. After the break, Sarah Holloway, a Human Sciences alumna, gave an insight into the role of brands in shaping the future through company-consumer relationships, asking 'Can brands save the world?'. Then we were treated to the video presentation of Danielle Paffard, from Zero Carbon Britain, who posed the question 'Can we create a climate-safe future?'; followed (after a few technical Skype issues) by a group discussion between the speakers and audience members. Overall it was a really interesting set

of talks and all those who went seemed to enjoy it and take something useful from the afternoon, not least a better awareness of how Human Sciences is a degree uniquely positioned to take best advantage of the range of perspectives available to address such broad issues. We are very grateful to all who participated and those who came to watch, and we can only hope the 2015 symposium will be even better!

UNIQ Summer School

Beth Thorne, 1st Year Human Scientist and UNIQ Mentor

July saw the first ever cohort of UNIQ Human Scientists come to the Pauling Centre. For one week these 16 selected lower sixth students had the chance to embrace Oxford life experiencing lectures, workshops, dinners and all. This is typical of the UNIQ programme, funded by the Helsington



Foundation of St John's, which aims to bring state school students, often of lower socio-economic status or from schools with poor higher education progression, to Oxford.

The Human Sciences department was brilliant in providing a truly wide range of lectures for the students which demonstrated the interdisciplinary nature of the course to them. Anthropology with Marcus Banks, Physiology with Piers Nye and Human Evolution with Iain Morley introduced the students to lectures which generally they managed to stay awake for! Also throughout the week the students

attended interactive workshops with Anja Mizdrak on Health and Disease, Naomi Freud on Human Ecology and Amanda Palmer on Sociology. Finally the students visited Wytham Woods with Andy Gosler. A recurrent theme from the students was how interesting these all were and how they were starting to see how everything fits together - success for Human Sciences surely?!

Aside from the academic programme the students were fortunate enough to hear from alumni Rachel Stancliffe (graduated 1990) and Emily Eastop (graduated 2010). For the students (and their current first year mentors) this was a great opportunity to hear about just two of the paths Human Sciences may lead to. Also during the week the students saw the Oxford Imps perform, had sports evenings in the Parks, and a bop (undoubtedly the highlight of the week for many).

All in all, the 16 students left Oxford on Friday exhausted but full of stories and enthusiasm from their week. Whilst a few left Oxford not fully convinced they will apply they were certainly all enlightened by their week and appreciated the diversity of the course. Many are hoping to be invited to interview in December and hopefully this week will benefit them greatly when they do. If this is what all the future Human Scientists are like however, we can be sure the subject has a bright future!

2014 Prizes

Bob Hiorns

The winner of the Bob Hiorns Prize for the best performance in the Final Honour School of Human Sciences in 2014 was Sasha Kaletskey, New College. Sasha writes:

“Thank you to my tutors and all those involved in organising the course. It has been a real pleasure, and I look forward to bringing the 'Human Sciences toolkit' into the next stage of my life, whatever that might be.”

Wilma Crowther Prize

The winner of the Wilma Crowther Prize for the best dissertation in the Final Honour School of Human Sciences was Anna Bystricky, St Hugh's College. We asked Anna to tell us a bit about her dissertation which she does below:

“A ‘triple disaster’ shook Japan on March 11, 2011: a massive earthquake off the coast of Tohoku unleashed a tsunami, which hit the Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant, causing a catastrophic meltdown. Coverage of the unfolding humanitarian and environmental crisis flooded the American media that spring; I kept an eye on these reports, and followed news of the public protests sweeping Japan in the wake of “3/11”. But as it turns out, my *gaijin* news digest left me with a few gaping blind-spots. I was surprised by two observations Naomi Freud made during a human ecology tutorial: (1) that the Fukushima protests were driven in part by women's desire to avoid a repeat of what happened after the 1945 A-bombings, when public fears of radiation led to the marginalization of survivors (*hibakusha*), and (2) that the wave of post-3/11 activism marks a milestone in Japanese women's political engagement.

These two points became the springboard for my dissertation. Tying together medical anthropology, biomedical studies, demographic trends, sociological perspectives, and geopolitical context, I traced how postwar Japan's gender struggles have played out through discourses of atomic victimhood and the Nuclear Village's* rise and fall from grace. Fukushima, I argued, marks a paradigm shift in this long-term ‘coevolution’ between Japan's gender landscape, radiation stigma, and antinuclear activism.

Before I sign off, I'd like to acknowledge my supervisor, Dr Chigusa Yamaura, whose detailed feedback and thought-provoking questions were exceptionally helpful and absolutely integral to my research and writing process. Thank you! Many thanks also to the examiners who plowed through my dense writing; I feel very honored by this unexpected award!”

*in Japan, the so-called “Nuclear Village” (*genshiryoku mura*) refers to the ensemble of politicians, bureaucrats, utility companies, media personalities and academics who promote nuclear energy.

Gibbs Prizes

In 2014, for the first time, the University's Gibbs Prizes were given to Human Scientists. These were awarded for performance in Prelims and the winner was Leanne Robinson (Keble) who achieved the top Prelims result and book prizes were awarded to Lauren Moulton (St Catherine's), Rose Stevens (Wadham), Georgie Meredith (Magdalen) and Beth Thorne (New College). Congratulations to all the prize winners and to everyone who has passed Prelims.

Graduate News

1974

Charles Green and **Sally Whipple** first encountered each other in the Human Sciences room in Keble Road in October 1972, members of the second cohort of Human Sciences in the early days when there was no department, nor professor, but a good deal of chaos and idealism.... 42 years later, three daughters, careers in community medicine and accountancy and embarking on grandparenthood, they find themselves in a completely new and rather fascinating phase of life, which Sally describes below.

Seven years ago Charles inherited a wonderful old farmhouse in North West Shropshire and we moved up from Oxfordshire. We have both dabbled in local politics, but Charles somehow found himself involved in a big fight against the installation of 5 massive wind farm schemes in mid Wales, the consequent pylon line due to pass close to our land and mar a swathe of West Shropshire, and blight many local properties. Whilst wholly, of course, in favour of sensible renewable energy initiatives, like many we love the largely unspoilt beauty of the hills of mid Wales, now much of which is earmarked by the Welsh government for wind farms by the so called TAN8 policy (technical advice notice eight). All this was without any real consultation. A big demonstration in Cardiff in 2011 was ignored, and many bodies formed to oppose the ill-considered policy. Hearing of his love of order and spreadsheets, Charles was dragooned to be 'paper wallah', coordinating 22 groups. A year-long public inquiry nears its climax in Welshpool, presided over by a Welsh government inspector and involving countless hours of submission of proofs of evidence and multifarious words by ecologists, landscape experts, heritage bodies and many others, all conducted rather as a court of law, with barristers and paid experts propounding the case for the turbines, and arguing with the experts. They are employed by and are exorbitantly paid by five foreign energy companies plus National Grid and Scottish power, the pylon constructors. The Alliance backed, but not fronted, by one absent barrister whose fees have to be earned painfully, are putting up the counter case championing the numerous people who oppose the plan on grounds of inefficiency, despoliation of a unique and invaluable landscape, noise and flicker pollution and on various sociological grounds! Much of this reminding us of the multifaceted integrative skills learnt on the Human Sciences course.

The whole business is fascinating and draws on the many skills of the alliance personnel who, to date, are putting up an overwhelmingly locally informed and generally more intelligent case than the barristers, none of whom are local and all earning massive fees for their 'legalese' arguments. Charles and The Alliance have spent countless hours on the job, all given freely, but many, many new people have come into our lives, all fascinating, and the whole campaign has brought out community spirit and forged friendships. Even our travails with statistics have been brought to bear but a local plebiscite has been overwhelmingly against the wind farms in local community councils, no statistics being needed. So we hope, come next Christmas, when the result is announced, the nays will triumph. By then we will be grandparents and will have more important duties to perform, even if we will have to go to Cambridge, to babysit one of the first Human Sciences grandchildren (we know of a few others such as those of the late Dan Parsons). Incidentally Ros, a pure bred Human Scientist offspring, is now a Zoologist, and starting as a research assistant on Skomer, West Wales, logging seabird breeding survival. A very suitable and exciting job I'm sure you will agree.

Any Human Scientists wishing to discover the wonders of mid-Wales are very welcome to stay here at our lovely farm where you could find out more about fighting silly policies, play croquet and discover this wonderful country we are trying to protect. So let rational politics prevail and save our amazing landscapes. Local generation water turbines and tidal/wave power to the fore please politicians and policy makers. Plenty of water round here at the moment!

1976

Pamela Charlton (née Clarke) (Somerville) has just retired from the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, after 32 years. This was preceded by 4 years as a journalist on an international financial magazine in London, which confirmed her love of publishing and her dislike of high finance. Looking back, the wide spread of subjects covered in the Human Sciences course (and acceptance of arts students as well as scientists) was the ideal preparation for Pamela's work as editor and eventually head of publishing at the European office of WHO. Its remit, people's health, is interdisciplinary by definition. Knowledge of the interdependency of the environment and humankind in all its physical, mental, social and psychological aspects is key to understanding, promoting and sustaining health. Human Sciences could have been created with WHO in mind. When Pamela came up to Oxford, the story was that the only known career path so far for a Human Scientist was bookbinding. The newsletter shows that Human Scientists continue to do an extraordinary range of things. It was an exciting course back in the 1970s, and it is wonderful to see how the course has grown and prospered.

1990

Hannah Bradby (Wadham) is Professor of Sociology at Uppsala University, Sweden. As an undergraduate she edited a volume of papers arising from a Human Sciences symposium she helped organise, that was published by Earthscan in 1990 and reissued in 2009 as part of the Earthscan Library Collection on Environmentalism and Politics. Read recent posts at: <http://www.cost-ofliving.net/>

1991

Jacci Bulman (née Garside) (St John's) co-founded a charity for disabled orphans in Vietnam – The Kianh Foundation – which is now an NGO in Vietnam (<http://www.kianh.org.uk/>). Jacci has been writing poetry for several years and her first collection *A Whole Day Through From Waking* will be published by Cinnamon Press in 2016 under her maiden name of Garside. The collection includes poems about some of the children she met in Vietnam who were a great inspiration.

Graham-Hay Smith has moved with his family to Australia. He is now in Queensland and in addition to his normal ophthalmic surgical work, he is trying to make some inroads into aboriginal eye health, the politics of which are unfathomable.

1999

Jessica Reinisch (Somerville) is a Senior Lecturer in Modern History at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her monograph *The Perils of Peace: The Public Health Crisis in Occupied Germany* (OUP, 2012) has been shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's Gladstone Prize this year. With the help of a Wellcome Trust New Investigator Award, she set up and runs a research group on the history of international organisations in twentieth century Europe. The project is called "The Reluctant Internationalists", <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/reluctantinternationalists/> She is also editor of the journal *Contemporary European History*, which is published by CUP.

2005

Alex Woods (St John's) has taken part in, and provided medical support for, a charity rowing challenge across the 250km Lake Kariba (Zambia) in August of this year. It coincided with the "Super-Moon" on 10th August and those taking part rowed through the night, dodging hippos and crocs (and possibly some Zambezi sharks!) as they went. They were raising money for two excellent charities called [Village Water](#) and Conservation Lower Zambezi. The row also played part of a fantastic effort to help spread the sport of rowing in Zambia, with FISA getting involved and Learn-To-Row courses being set up through some of the avenues of sponsorship becoming attributed to the event. Anyone interested can find out more at www.karibamoonrow.com and should they wish to make a donation do so at <https://www.justgiving.com/Alex-Woods3/> or through the website directly.

2012

Philippa Baines, (Magdalen) has spent the past two years in documentary filmmaking and current affairs journalism. Last year, she received her first BBC credit for her research on OOKP surgery, an operation that restores sight by installing a tooth in the eye. Philippa has subsequently moved into current affairs and conflict reporting. She worked on Al Jazeera and BBC programmes about conflict in the DR Congo and later worked in production at the multimedia magazine Vice.com for the launch of their News website. She has written articles on development and human rights abuses and her Directorial debut, a film about homelessness in Oxford, was screened twice at the Barbican. She is now taking a break from conflict reporting, working at a tour operator Experience Travel – her latest blog post about sustainable tourism and Slow Lorises, including an interview from the wonderful HumSci lecturer Anna Nekarlis can be seen at <http://www.experiencetravelgroup.com/blog/2014/09/holidaymakers-save-lorises-extinction/>

Caroline Parker (St John's) is a second year PhD student at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and is pursuing her Ph.D. in medical anthropology at the department of Sociomedical Sciences. Caroline is currently working on an NIMH-funded ethnographic study – The PrEP for Black MSM project – which investigates the feasibility of introducing pre-exposure prophylaxis as a HIV prevention tool among Black Men who have Sex with Men (BMSM) in New York City. This community-based ethnographic research explores the structural and cultural factors that shape men's sexual relationships and health systems engagement, and findings will inform the design of a PrEP-based package of care targeted at BMSM who are initiating PrEP.

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