

ABER Research

Spring 2010

CADAIR – a seat of learning

CADAIR is Aberystwyth University's online research repository. It is a showcase for the University's cutting-edge, peer-reviewed research in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences, and an on-line archive to increase the visibility of its academics' research output and its research groups. On a wider platform, CADAIR has also moved up the world ranking of research repositories, from 238th in 2009 to 197th in January 2010 beating among others, Manchester, St Andrews and Bristol, and it is the *only* Welsh repository in the global top 400. The main reason for this is the amount of searchable full text items. Another methodology used to designate positions is 'visibility', something that has significantly increased for Aberystwyth over the last year – from 4,585 world-wide visits in January 2009 to 7,448 in January 2010.

Since October 2008, 104,942 visits came from 194 countries – the top 5 being the UK, US, India, Canada and Germany. Within the UK, most visits came from Aberystwyth itself thus demonstrating university-wide interest. Marginally behind were visits from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Cardiff. The top item in CADAIR is Nick Wheeler's book chapter, *'Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics'*, with just under 3000 views (Google Analytics). This item is part of the 3780 deposits in CADAIR, and with the ongoing AHRC funded Bartrum project and future Seals project to consider, the developing breadth and depth of research to be found in CADAIR is impressive indeed. Many individuals have been involved and have supported the repository and, encouragingly, several new academics and postgraduate students are registering as users.



Rebecca Davies and
Dr Nicky Cashman

So what can CADAIR offer Aberystwyth academics? Increased global visibility for research, immediate usage and impact for research outputs and increased citation impact of up to 25% (Alma Swan, 'Modelling Scholarly Communication Options: Costs and Benefits for Universities', report to the JISC, February 2010). This is all possible through continued and future AU uptake and support of CADAIR.

For further information visit CADAIR's website at <http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/dspace/> or email cadair@aber.ac.uk or call (62)2396.

Welcome to the Spring edition of Aber Research, the termly newsletter focussing on research matters at Aberystwyth University.

Please note that the deadline for material for the Autumn edition of Aber Research is 28 June 2010.

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For the latest research news visit Aberystwyth University's research web pages at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/research

Universities renew commitment to drive forward Wales' knowledge economy

Wales' leading universities marked St David's Day by renewing their joint commitment to drive forward Wales' knowledge economy.

The St David's Day Declaration signed in 2009 by Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan and Swansea universities committed the universities to act together, combining their strengths and talents in research and innovation to enhance the knowledge economy in Wales.

Together the five universities represent over 70% of all students in Wales and more than 95% of the nation's research activity. With

a combined annual turnover of approaching £1 billion, including a significant contribution from international sources, the big five represent a substantial economic generator for Wales.

To mark St David's Day and celebrate the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration the five Vice-Chancellors have renewed their commitment.

In a joint statement, they said: "The St David's Day Declaration signed in 2009 cemented our belief that by building in collaboration on the intellectual capital and academic excellence of our

universities, we can help Wales create an innovative and dynamic economy and a just society for the 21st Century.

"We know that, collectively, our staff and our students can offer real help to business, the public sector and to individuals. Our first priority was to help Wales work its way out of the current recession and, beyond that, to create a vibrant knowledge-led society and economy that puts Wales ahead of the game."

For further details visit: www.aber.ac.uk/aberonline/en/archive/2010/03/au3010/

Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education



Professor Wayne Powell (pictured left) and Professor Noel Lloyd (pictured right) receive the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education from the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace on 19 February 2010.

Image courtesy of BCA Ltd

Research Excellence Framework

Professor Aled Jones, Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Technology Transfer

In the second issue of *Aber Research* we again see examples of the excellent range and quality of the research done at Aberystwyth, and of the national and international recognition that it receives. This continues to strengthen our position in the increasingly global research environment in which all successful research universities will in future need to compete. These case studies also provide evidence of the impact that our research is having on an impressive diversity of research users. The UK pilot exercise on impact assessment is taking longer than anticipated, and is not now expected to report its findings until the autumn of this year. However, we have, since the last issue, learnt more about the shape the REF will take in other respects, especially with regard to outputs, and our Departmental, Faculty and Institutional research monitoring processes will need to be finely attuned to these expectations. In March, HEFCE published a helpful summary of the sector-wide response to the REF consultation exercise, available at www.hefce.ac.uk/ref. Annex A outlines a series of initial decisions on the rules for REF which we need to consider very carefully indeed, including the small print in the footnotes!

As we prepare for REF, I am pleased to announce two developments that will help support researchers at the University. The first is the establishment of a Research Advisory Network of senior AU academic staff with significant

experience of high-quality externally-funded research to advise and provide support to colleagues across disciplines. Working closely with the PVC and the Deans, they will make themselves available to help colleagues within and outside their Departments to generate research questions (including those with interdisciplinary dimensions) and to advise on where and how to best seek external research funding. They will also be happy to give practical advice on the effective management of research projects. The Network's role is to be proactively supportive and enabling, and will not, as a group, have an input into the research monitoring process now underway. Its purpose is to support academic staff and to help us enhance the quality and sustainability of our research. The current Network consists of Professors Diane Watt (English and Creative Writing), Mike Woods (IGES), Qiang Shen (Computer Science), Jamie Newbold (IBERS), David Trotter (European Languages - please make a note of his seminar on research grant applications on 13 May), Patrick Sims-Williams (Welsh and Celtic Studies) and Colin McInnes (International Politics). At their first meeting in March they strongly emphasised the need for colleagues to seek advice from them on the preparation of research bids at the earliest possible opportunity. Please do make full use of their expertise.

Secondly, progress is being made towards the formalisation of an AU Research Office to provide

further support to staff in both the pre-award and project management phases.

Two new appointments in the areas of the Humanities and the Social Sciences have now been made, and a further post is expected to be released shortly. Colleagues in those disciplines should also look out for two presentations for staff at the University on research funding, one by John Wand, Head of the Security, Environment, Energy and Development Team of the ESRC, on 5 May, the other by Professor Shearer West, Director of Research at the AHRC, on 10 May. The Research Café initiative is one we should all welcome very warmly, and the full integration of early career staff into the research culture of the University is a very high priority for us all.

Finally, we continue to pursue an active role, across a broad range of disciplines, in setting-up and developing international research collaborations. Over the coming months we will be taking steps to transform some of these links into international, long-term institutional partnerships that connect research, postgraduate programmes, alumni networks and other forms of activity. I hope to have more to say about these developments in the next issue.



Professor Aled Jones

Beyond the face

In a groundbreaking new partnership, researchers from Aberystwyth University have been collaborating with designers from the Royal College of Art to visualise the potential impact of scientific developments and examine how they might affect how we live in future Britain. The results were recently seen at the IMPACT! Exhibition, London.

Chosen by designers at the Royal College of Art, the capabilities of Aberystwyth University's real-time dynamic passive profiling technique, which allows users to observe individual's feelings and emotions, beyond what is expressed visually was demonstrated at the exhibition.

Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar, from the Computer Science Department, explained: "This new technology is based on the modelling of facial expressions, eye movement and pupil changes in both the visual and thermal domains and links these to emotions and physiological processes such as blood flow, eye movement patterns and pupil dilation."

James Auger, designer at the Royal College of Art, chose to work with Aberystwyth University to show how the profiling technique, which is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences

Research Council (EPSRC), may be used within domestic situations within five to ten years.

Professor Zwiggelaar said: "Individuals, to a certain extent, are able to manage their facial expressions and mask their true emotions. Our technology combines both thermal and visual information to enable us to gain an insight into individuals' true feelings and whether or not they are telling the truth. We anticipate that the technique will provide useful information about a person's emotional wellbeing."

The primary aim of developing this technology is to support UK Border Agency in detecting when individuals are carrying contraband.

The project includes a further dimension of collaboration between the arts

and sciences: Keats-Shelley Prize winning poet, Dr Richard Marggraf Turley, from the Department of English and Creative Writing has collaborated with James Auger in composing short narratives that explore how emotion detection might play an interactive role in the lives of a family who have installed the technology in their home.

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/aberonline/en/archive/2010/03/au3110/>



Professor
Reyer Zwiggelaar

Streaming to a cinema near you ...

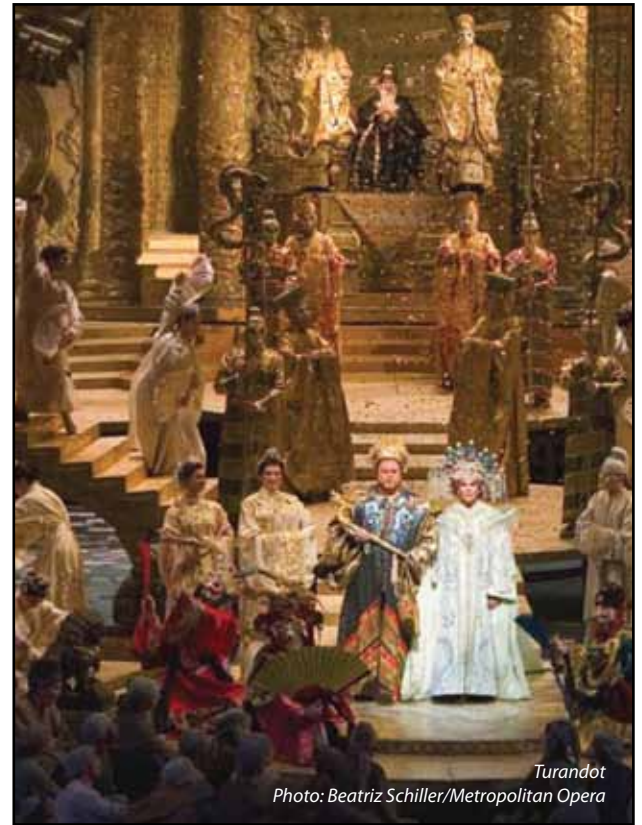
A major and quite sudden new development in the cultural world has been the blooming of what is known in the industry as 'Alternative Content' – known to the rest of us as the streaming of live performances of theatre, opera and ballet (and potentially other things) to digitally-equipped cinemas (Aberystwyth Arts Centre's being one of those blessed with this). The speed of development of this has been great, with predictions that by 2014 earnings from them could amount to 5% of global cinema box office, from offerings like the National Theatre's *Phèdre* or *All's Well That Ends Well* or the New York Metropolitan Opera's *Turandot* or *Aïda*. But who goes to these events, what do they think of them, and how does the experience compare to being at the actual performance?

Professor Martin Barker (Theatre, Film & Television Studies) has been working in concert with Picturehouse Cinemas, London, who organise the digital streaming to many cinemas, to find out. Using an online survey, he recruited 650 responses to a complex questionnaire. From the results, a striking picture emerges. First, the audience is predominantly older – more than 65% over 60 years old. Ratings of the presentations are very high – over 60% finding them 'Excellent'. And many people, greatly appreciating the availability and accessibility, as well as price and quality of the events, are developing the practice of booking whole seasons in advance.

But within these overall positive figures, some more complex patterns emerge. Contrary to 'standard wisdom' in the marketing concept of the 'traditional culture vulture', different attitudes to the art-forms are revealed. Opera attracts a high proportion of people who will attend almost anything, and worry about the quality afterwards. For theatre and cinema, audiences want assurances that it will be 'good quality' before they will go. Ballet meanwhile appears to have a largely separate audience. And the new medium is calling forth new 'manners', as people learn and share appropriate ways to enjoy and applaud events which *feel* live, but are not so in the standard sense.

What seems to be emerging is a distinct audience who see these streamed performances as a new kind of cultural experience: simultaneously entertaining and educational (because of the special insights and interviews they offer), more 'democratic' than the source-events because of cost, ease of access, and a sense of inclusiveness, and offering a closeness to the events that many people find particularly engrossing.

This research is part of a wider interest emerging in this phenomenon, with the Government-supported National Endowment for Science, Technology and Arts conducting a different kind of research into audience expectations. The report was submitted to Picturehouse in March 2010.



Turandot
Photo: Beatriz Schiller/Metropolitan Opera

Reducing food waste

IBERS is developing a novel sensor to detect food spoilage. The work is based on the fact that plant produce exposed to stress – whether this is due to abiotic factors such as drought, heat shock or wounding or infection by pathogens – produce trace amounts of gases or volatile compounds such as ethylene, ethane, methyl jasmonate, methyl salicylate and nitric oxide – known as stress signaling volatiles (SSVs).



Student Anushen Sivakumaran with a stressed tomato plant

The research group, led by Dr Luis Mur have been able to show that the relationships between these SSVs is not only diagnostic of the type of stress to which the produce is exposed but, critically, that the changes in SSV production can be observed within a few hours of the stress being detected by the product. However, this involves detecting volatiles in the parts per million or parts per billion range. Hence, to develop appropriate technology, the IBERS group has teamed up with the EU Trace Gas Facility in Nijmegen – led by Dr Frans Harren and The Sensors Research Laboratory at Warwick University, led by Professor Julian Gardner to produce a sensor to detect these early changes. This will involve the creation of Surface Acoustic Wave Resonator Sensors (SAWRS)

which work by absorbing a volatile on a specific surface coating resulting in a phase change in waves reflected from it and which can respond to multiple volatiles simultaneously. Such sensors can be produced relatively cheaply and are economically viable.

The EU is the largest importer of fruit and vegetables and the second largest exporter, but there are often significant losses, not only in production, but also in handling, transport and packaging – sometimes amounting to a 30% loss. This is not only a cost to industry and the consumer, but also has implications in terms of carbon footprint. The sensor has the capacity to detect early problems with a product, thus reducing these costs and has the enthusiastic support of industry.

More crop success

IBERS is once again leading the way in developing new varieties of one of the UK's most important crops- even beating the Tardis in the process!

IBERS has had two new winter oat varieties placed on the definitive crop list recommended by the Home Grown Cereals Authority, the body that promotes the production, wholesomeness and marketing of UK grain.



Dr Athole Marshall

There is increasing awareness of the value of oats both for human consumption and as a high value animal feed. Both varieties build on decades of success at IBERS and provide farmers, millers and feed compounders with oats that are more productive, resilient and easier to grow.

Winter oats developed at IBERS now account for 70% of the UK's £2 million-a-year market in oat seeds. One variety, called Gerald, is the market leader, accounting for 45% of the total crop of winter oats.

This year, IBERS' new varieties are the only winter oats to be added to the Recommended List. They join a long roll call of successful oat varieties from the innovative IBERS oat breeding programme that are marketed by Senova Ltd.

Balado is a conventional husked variety of oat that offers a bumper crop for farmers – 5% more even than IBERS' other well known winter oat, Tardis. Fusion has no husk and is called a 'naked oat'. Aimed mainly at farm animals, it is a great energy source, particularly for poultry.

The Institute's scientists were praised for successfully combining fundamental research on plant genetics with plant breeding techniques to develop commercially viable plant varieties that help meet the challenges of food, water and energy security, and environmental sustainability.

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/aberonline/en/archive/2010/04/au0810/>

Space Robot Research taken to Parliament

Research by an Aberystwyth academic on a camera-snapping robot destined to look for signs of past life on Mars was showcased at the Palace of Westminster on Monday 8 March 2010.

Stephen Pugh from the Department of Computer Science was selected to take part in the 2010 SET for Britain competition.

He presented findings of the research he's carrying out for the ExoMars Programme – a €1 billion project led by the European Space Agency, in cooperation with NASA.

As part of the ExoMars mission, a robotic planetary rover will be sent to Mars in 2018 and the research focuses on the operation of the rover's on-board cameras. Stephen Pugh's research has been looking at how the robotic rover can point its cameras at specific targets such as rocks, without human intervention.

The second aspect of his research has involved assessing how the images taken by the robotic system can be sent back to Earth in the shortest time possible. It should now be possible to send these pictures back within one day rather than three days, providing vital information about the rover's surroundings in what is a very unknown environment.

The SET for Britain competition and poster exhibition was established in 1997 to draw MP's attention to the work of early-stage and early-career research scientists, engineers and technologists.

£1m international research into liver fluke

IBERS is part of a £1 million international research effort to combat liver fluke – a parasite which causes disease in livestock, resulting in billions of pounds in losses every year to farmers around the world.

The disease caused by liver fluke worms – *Fasciolosis* – has a huge impact on livestock globally, causing ill health in animals and dramatically reducing productivity. Losses to UK farmers are estimated at over £300 million per year, while in India, *Fasciolosis* costs the agricultural sector between £1.3 and £3 billion per year. Further, this disease is a food-borne pathogen which can also infect people. An estimated 17 million people are infected with the liver fluke worm and the disease has been designated a Neglected Tropical Disease by the World Health Organisation.

Parasitologists from IBERS together with Queen's University, Belfast's School of Biological Sciences will work with partners at Aligarh Muslim University and Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in India, in efforts to uncover a new vaccine for the disease.

The £1 million research funding is part of the £13 million *Combating Infectious Diseases of Livestock for International Development* initiative co-funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Department for International Development and the Scottish Executive.

Peter Brophy and Neil Mackintosh, IBERS



Newly Appointed Research Support Officers

Dr Jenny Deaville and Dr Dafydd Roberts have recently started in the newly funded posts of Research Support Officers for the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Aberystwyth.

Dr Jenny Deaville

Role: To provide research support to academics and researchers in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Background: Jenny has a PhD in Rural Geography and for the past 11 years she has been Research Manager at the Institute of Rural Health (IRH) in Gregynog. She led the research programme at IRH and successfully bid for research funding from a wide range of funding bodies including the Wales Office of R&D for Health and Social Care, Welsh Assembly Government, Defra, Health and Safety Executive, the Big Lottery and Countryside Council for Wales. For the past 5 years Jenny has also provided research support to Powys Local Health Board and assisted staff in developing research projects and obtaining funding.



Dr Jenny Deaville and Dr Dafydd Roberts

Dr Dafydd Roberts

Role: To provide research support to academics and researchers in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Background: After completing his PhD Dafydd successfully developed an Arts Council of Wales funded project, which led to further work in community development. Most recently Dafydd worked for Voluntary Arts Wales and Powys Association of Voluntary Associations as a funding officer. His experience has been in providing funding support, training and community development for voluntary sector groups across Powys. He has sought and managed many funded projects for voluntary sector groups in Powys including community arts projects, social enterprise schemes, and provided funding support and training for groups.

Jenny and Dafydd are temporarily based in the Cledwyn Building (Room G22), but will shortly be re-locating to the Visualisation Centre.

Contact Details:

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Funding Success for Monitoring and Modelling River Processes in New Zealand

Dr James Brasington from the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences has been awarded £455,000 by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for a research project, ReesScan, which aims to provide new insights into the patterns and processes controlling the evolution of braided rivers.

This project brings together an international team of river scientists with skills in remote sensing, hydraulics and sedimentology to develop novel methods to quantify how these complex fluvial landforms are shaped by the processes of erosion and deposition during floods. A key component of this study is a nine-month field campaign focused on the Rees River in Central Otago, New Zealand, where the research team are intensively monitoring a dynamic, shifting floodplain through an annual flood season using state-of-the-art remote sensing. In collaboration with Mark Neal and Fred Labrosse of the Robotics Group in Computer Science, the ReesScan team have developed a novel ground-based laser scanning system, *ArgoScan*, which is capable of collecting over one billion survey points per day and captures the morphology of the river bed with millimetre precision. *ArgoScan* is based on a ruggedized, amphibious, 6 x 6 wheel vehicle which can navigate the rough terrain and incorporates a high-speed laser scanner, precision GPS, attitude sensors and a panoramic camera to capture the 3d geometry of the river on the move. The dense survey data collected are married with data collected from boat-based echo-sounding and helicopter-based aerial photography to construct the highest-resolution digital elevation models of river topography



ArgoScan in action on the Rees River

ever derived ... with over one survey observation per centimetre!

Ultimately the data will enable the team to derive detailed models that quantify river channel changes during floods and relate these to the driving flood discharge, the pattern of 2d hydraulic flows and the riverbed roughness that force the processes of erosion and deposition. The unparalleled datasets generated during ReesScan will help shed light on the geophysical processes which control the intermittent, unsteady and highly variable pattern of sediment transport in braided rivers. Unravelling this complexity is essential to help river managers forecast the dynamics of these ceaselessly shifting river systems and infer the possible consequences that climate and land-use change might have for the risks of flooding and the biodiversity of these dynamic ecosystems.

For further information and an updated news-blog, visit the project's website: www.reesscan.org.

Audiovisuology: Research in Sound and Vision

The School of Art recently held two open days to showcase its series of experimental workshops designed to explore the relationship between sound and vision.

The first was *Concert: To Do Something in Cooperation with Another*, held on the 3rd March and involved a collaboration between John Harvey (Professor of Art) and PhD student Maria Hayes. The project saw student and tutor working together to combine image making with sound making, and visual and audio technologies during a day of improvisation. *Concert* was not a performance; it is not for an audience but, rather, for the participants. However, students, staff, and members of the public were welcome to visit the gallery throughout the day in order to see and hear the work in progress. The spectators encountered an example of practice-based-research-in-action: a playful yet critical investigation of what takes place when two distinct modes of creativity are juxtaposed.

The second held on 6th March saw Naomi Pincher (a third-year fine-art student), Rueben Knutson (Studio Tutor) and John Harvey collaborating to create an impromptu and improvisatory sound and drawing based installation. *Here Everything is Still Floating* comprised of objects, including drawing and writing instruments, suspended in the air by balloons filled with helium. The objects delicately inscribed marks upon the screens of overhead projectors, and produce sounds when they made contact with an electrically-charged sheet of foil laid across the gallery floor.

These projects exemplified the widening concept of drawing and the development of inter-medial art practiced at the School.



Full details of the projects can be found at: <http://www.aber.ac.uk/art/news/2010/improvisation.shtml> and <http://www.aber.ac.uk/art/news/2010/floating.shtml>



NEW BOOK PUBLISHED **Bilateral trade Agreements in the ERA of Globalisation: The EU and India in Search of a Partnership**

by **Sangeeta Khorana, Nicholas Perdikis,
May T Yeung and William A Kerr**

Published by Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, 2010,
price £59.95

This unique book provides an assessment of the proposed EU-India free trade agreement by drawing on the theory of preferential agreements, the history of Indian-European relations and the recent developments in the Indian economy. The authors explore both a broad overview of the agreement as well as a detailed examination of sensitive sectors. The book concludes that realising the significant potential of an EU-India agreement will depend on a clear understanding of the existing barriers to trade, careful negotiations and a willingness to implement what has been agreed.

Business executives in both Europe and India as well as officials in the EU Commission and Indian government will find this innovative book fascinating and useful in gaining insights into the issues involved.

Levitation workshop at German Aerospace

On 15th December IMAPS staff attended a workshop on levitation at the Institute of Materials Physics in Space at DLR in Cologne. CAFMaD was well represented by Professor Neville Greaves, Dave Langstaff, Edwin Flikkema & Matthew Gunn from Aberystwyth and Greg Chass from Bangor and the workshop was also attended by Louis Hennes from CNRS Orleans and researchers based at the DLR site including part time IMAPS and CAFMaD staff member Florian Kargl who is now based there. The theme of the workshop was contactless measurement of levitated supercooled materials and was preceded by tour of the DLR research labs including demonstrations of their electromagnetic and electrostatic levitation systems.

Presentations covered the measurement of surface tension and viscosity and x-ray and neutron scattering measurements of molten and supercooled materials levitated using aerodynamic, electromagnetic and electrostatic techniques. A fascinating presentation was given by Andreas Meyer on electromagnetic levitation experiments carried out in microgravity on board the parabolic flight aircraft "Zero-G" and planned experiments for the International Space Station. Edwin Flikkema, Greg Chass and Jürgen Horbach discussed computer simulations of disordered materials with the intention of collaborating on this work in the future. The day was concluded with a presentation by Professor Neville Greaves on "Polymorphism, Liquid-Liquid Transitions & Critical Points in Supercooled Yttria-Alumina" which stimulated much interest from the DLR researchers.



Tobias Kordel (PhD student, left) and Dirk Holland-Moritz (Senior Researcher, right) explaining the finer points of DLR's new electrostatic levitator for in situ neutron scattering.

Research Professional

Did you know that Aberystwyth University subscribes to Research Professional, the largest database of research funding opportunities available worldwide?

Research Professional (formerly ResearchResearch) allows you to create tailored searches for funding opportunities relating to your specific research interests. For each opportunity you are able to view all the information that you need on eligibility, how to apply, and when and where to submit applications. You can also save your search criteria in order to rerun the search at a later date, and set up automatic weekly email alerts of funding opportunities relevant to your interests.

To find out, in just one-hour, how you can make the most of Research Professional, sign-up for one of our online demonstrations:

**3pm, Wednesday 26th May 2010
3pm, Wednesday 16th June 2010**

**3pm, Wednesday 30th June 2010
3pm, Wednesday 22nd September 2010**

The demonstrations take place via WebEx, an online learning platform whereby training takes place at your own computer via the internet. So, you won't even need to leave your desk!

For more information and to book a place at one of the demonstrations visit the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice webpages: www.aber.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/

www.researchprofessional.com

If you have any queries about Research Professional, please contact: Alice Earp, E-mail: ale@aber.ac.uk, Ext: 2578

AHRC Presentation

Monday 10th May, 1.30pm

Professor Shearer West, Director of Research for the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) will be visiting Aberystwyth University on Monday 10th May.

Professor West will be giving a presentation to interested academic staff and postgraduates in the Main Lecture Theatre of the International Politics Building. Topics covered will include AHRC schemes and initiatives, current challenges and opportunities, AHRC approach to knowledge transfer, and demonstrating impact of arts and humanities research. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

The session is open to all academic staff and postgraduates, and will be of significant interest to anybody who is considering applying for a grant from the AHRC now or in the future.

To book a place to attend please visit CDSAP:
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/>



Professor Shearer West
Photo: AHRC

Full Economic Costs and Je-S Workshop

Wednesday 12th May, 09:30–12:00

The aim of this workshop is to enable participants to understand the mechanisms of costing a research grant application to the Research Councils. The workshop, run by Mr Emyr Reynolds from the AU Grants and Contracts section, will enable participants to:

- * Fully cost an application to the Research Councils for research funding
- * Apply to the Research Councils using the Je-S System
- * Understand the rules and regulations applied by the Research Councils
- * Understand the terminology used
- * Understand the University's internal systems

The workshop would be useful to academics with little or no experience in applying to the Research Councils or anyone who wishes to increase their knowledge in this matter.

The session is now available for booking via the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice course list:
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/>

Shortening the Research Grant Odds

Thursday 13th May, 09:30–11:30

Professor David Trotter will be running a session on "Shortening the Research Grant Odds" in the Executive Boardroom in the Visualisation Building on the 13th May.

This session (aimed primarily at Humanities/Social Science researchers) is intended to follow on from Professor Shearer West's visit on Monday 10th May. What will come out of it is thus (like the 2.10 at Kempton Park) not 100% predictable at this stage but the talk will cover: impact and how to make a case for it; the mechanics of applications; what makes a good (and bad) application; and the question "why bother?"

Topics covered will include: How to apply, How to shorten the odds, Picking the right scheme, What is a project?, What to put in and what to leave out.

The session is now available for booking via the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice course list:
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/>

RESEARCH DIARY

Monday 10th May 2010

13:30 Presentation by Professor Shearer West, Director of Research, Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

Wednesday 12th May 2010

09:30 CDSAP Course: Full Economic Costs and JES

Wednesday 12th May 2010

14:00 University Forum for Departmental Directors of Research

Thursday 13th May 2010

09:30 CDSAP Course: Shortening the Research Grant Odds

Wednesday 26th May 2010

15:00 Online demonstration: Using the Research Professional Funding Opportunities Database

Thursday 3rd June 2010

10:30 Research Committee

Wednesday 16th June 2010

15:00 Online demonstration: Using the Research Professional Funding Opportunities Database

Wednesday 30th June 2010

15:00 Online demonstration: Using the Research Professional Funding Opportunities Database

Wednesday 8th September 2010

10:00 European Framework Programme 7 (FP7): An Overview of Opportunities

Wednesday 22nd September 2010

15:00 Online demonstration: Using the Research Professional Funding Opportunities Database

Wednesday 13th October 2010

12:00 Research Café

Thursday 14th October 2010

11:15 Faculty of Science Forum for Departmental Directors of Research

14:00 Faculty of Arts Forum for Departmental Directors of Research

14:00 Faculty of Social Science Forum for Departmental Directors of Research

Thursday 18th November 2010

10:30 Research Committee

For further details of all sessions please see the CDSAP Course List:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/>

Research Cafés

A new initiative starts in October 2010 aimed at early career academics. Research Cafés will be held once a month and aim to provide an informal environment for networking and for discussion around writing and submitting research grant applications. A rolling annual programme is being developed and a different theme will be the focus each month.

The first Research Café will take place on Wednesday 13th October 12.00pm until 2.00pm (venue to be confirmed). The first Café will introduce the University Research Strategy and the Research Support available to staff. There will also be an opportunity to discuss and influence topics to be covered in future Cafés. Lunch will be provided.

The Research Cafés are being organised jointly by the Research Support Office and Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice.

For further information and to book a place visit www.aber.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/

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