

Report on Guest Lecture by Alex Osmond, ‘University, Unsettling Thoughts, and You’

29 November, 2016, Oculus Building

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Supported by a funding award from IATL, the School of Modern Languages and Cultures (SMLC) hosted a guest lecture on its first-year Study Skills programme. This was intended to raise interest in study skills and to complement the in-house lectures offered.

Alex Osmond, Warwick University graduate and author of *Academic Writing and Grammar for Students* (2013, 2nd edn, 2015), gave a talk that addressed various ideas about study and writing methods, offering practical advice on critical approaches, and on ways that students can use and interact effectively with secondary sources when doing individual research and when writing essays. Alex used a range of examples, including news items on student issues, in order to demonstrate the difference between subjective and objective approaches, and he suggested ways of using greater perspective when engaging with potentially contentious issues.

The talk also included a detailed segment on deploying secondary sources in academic writing, in which Alex offered close readings of several examples intended to contrast ineffectual methods with effective techniques, to demonstrate ways that essay-writers can engage in a dialogue with the academic community.

The lecture was well attended, and Alex agreed to be videoed, so the talk has been made available on the Study Skills Moodle for this year’s and future SMLC students. Unfortunately, there was no time for audience questions as a technical hitch with the projector in OC.03 at the beginning of the day meant that AV Services had to be called, and their successful reboot of the specialist equipment left the talk running late.