The world of eSports:
Jack Fenton’s URSS experience

By Jack Fenton

I’m Jack, a second year Language, Culture, and Communication student. After just a term at Warwick I was lucky enough for one of my professors, Jo Angouri, to notice my passion for a certain topic in our research module. I chose to investigate eSports for my assignment project, a particular interest of mine that I’d like to push for a career in. We sat down and signed up for URSS with the research title ‘Professional eSports Team Communication’ and I then furthered my project in my term two project, during which I found out my application was successful!

What’s eSports? Simply, it is identical to sport, except instead of a football team, it’s a gaming team and they compete in one game, in the same way a footballer only plays football. eSports has international leagues, for multiple games, with million-pound organisations and teams of full-time professional players who practice and train just as hard, if not harder than traditional athletes. I chose this topic as it’s a passion of mine however, a totally unresearched topic, which is a problem for a vastly growing industry. The eSports industry actually had a greater annual turnover that the music industry in the UK last year and is predicted to grow to a multi-billion-dollar industry by 2020.

I chose to break down the specifics of how a team works, unpacking the intricacies of communication inside the game. I wanted to know how players act internally and then express that externally to cope with the pressure of high-level competition while making exceptionally efficient and difficult decisions. I chose to approach the psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic field of team decision-making.

With no eSports research and limited research into this topic in traditional sport, my project had a very unique aspect to it which approached a vital area of communication. I think this is what really allowed my project to be accepted. Gratefully and luckily, I took my £900 grant for my project and flew out to Berlin – the centre of European eSports. I watched live games in the LCS (League of Legends Championship Series) Arena and made field notes. While doing this, I approached the manager of one of the teams and he was interested in my research and I shared some of my previous findings with him to try and help aid his team’s communicative struggles.

In exchange, we had an interview which shaped the findings of my most recent theory. From my two previous assignments and this project, I had a wealth of in-game data. With this I could draw comparisons between non-professional and professional leagues and it allowed me to create a detailed theoretical framework that outlines just how the players make decisions so quickly. How? Basically, they give all the information to a ‘shotcaller’ who then makes the final decision, allowing them to make one clear decision that represents the whole team, promoting cohesion. The shotcaller is literally the person who calls the shots.

And how you may ask did I get to go to Germany and
My Two Short Months at Warwick

By Candice Fang

I loved being a Warwick student, though it was merely for two months. Compared with the ancient universities I visited before, Warwick is not as grand but more affordable and stylish. The university seemed like a fantasy woven by its brand colours: blue, purple and orange—a perfect combination of cool science, fresh modern air and a warm hue of humanity.

In terms of campus scenery and infrastructure, Warwick looks like a Silicon Valley embedded in a normadic prairie. The campus is recognisable by its unique architecture yet remains harmonious with other departments: the social science buildings hug each other with their cozy yards and small gardens; the prim white blocks of the humanity and the chemistry are joined hand in hand by the bridge; and the grandiose halls of WMG and statistics occupy a large field in the northeast like two giants. Among all the facilities I love the library most. The PR zone of Victorian literature is my favourite area, where I can explore grotesque stories and funny commentaries between the shelves. Much like the countryside in Jane Austen's novels, I feel that the vast green basin of Cryfield is as beautiful as a lyric. As for school culture, I am impressed by the freedom and individualism that flourished at this university. In class I can see the distinguished style of each student, whose speech assumes the personal tone and original perspective—sometimes thought provoking and inspiring, sometimes cynical and challenging. The seminar brought to life with active collision and fusion of different thoughts allowing us to touch upon diverse cultural values through each other. I was pleasantly surprised how amiable and easy to approach professors at Warwick were. To check our understanding, they paused and questioned us. I was astonished that they uploaded PowerPoints and even recordings of the lecture online after class. In contrast, the professors at my university will hardly spare any attention for students. For example, whether a student is late or someone fails to find a seat in a full room. Now will they provide us with learning materials or reading lists because we are supposed to research for our own essay topics. Their usual concern is to complete the lecture material quickly and so we must have full concentration in lectures. Because of this contrast to my home university, I am a little bit more relaxed here. Nevertheless, I appreciate this receiver-friendly mode of teaching and I thank the teachers’ patience and hospitality for nettlesome students like me. They always treated my annoying questions nicely and encouraged me to write essays in the way I like.

Two months passed quickly and I am reluctant to leave Warwick, my lovely classmates and the delicious crepe in the library cafe behind. I will really miss the daily sight of the auburn coloured tree in the middle of the social sciences’ courtyard, the rosy sunset on my way back to my dorm, and the warm smiling faces of my flatmates. I know it's really hard to establish a firm friendship in one term. I recall the word "Adornois" to express my frustration as I sigh over the long time needed to create strong bonds. Though we will meet some people and places only once in a lifetime, we can compensate this ephemeral nature by cherishing them in the moment and the experience in memory. I am very glad to have met you guys, and very glad to have been part of Warwick.
GloCAL: What’s on

- **Week 5:** 7th Feb, 7:00pm - POP and Intra-CAL games! An evening of friendly fun games followed by POP.
- **Week 7:** 23rd Feb, 7:30pm - Film night
- **Week 9:** 5th March, 12:00pm - GloCAL elections!
  - Interested in becoming an exec next year? Come along to **A1.11** to join the team!

 Interested in our events? Keep up to date with us or give suggestions on our Facebook page.

*Scan the QR code to find out more!*

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**Week 9: 3rd March, 7:30pm - Applied Linguistics Ball** - An event not to be missed! Join us for an amazing evening with food, drinks and entertainment. It’s a great opportunity to dress up and celebrate making it through term 2. Tickets available online.

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**ACROSS**

8. Field of linguistics that studies and classifies the structural and functional features of a language (8)
10. A research question need to be ___ when too broad. (8)
11. The vowel of an unstressed syllable (5)
14. Impairment of language that affects the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write (7)
15. An very long word showcasing multiple cases of derivational morphology – it refers to opposition to the disestablishment of the Church of England. (28)
18. An animal frequently featured in linguistic lecture memes (5)
19. What are you doing right now? Hint: It’s not “reading” (9)

**DOWN**

1. The branch of linguistics concerned with the meaning of words (9)
2. What are “Hannah” and “race car” examples of? (10)
3. Lecturer in the CAL department who went and studied a language in Papua New Guinea (5)
4. Person who knows multiple languages (12)
5. IPA class which makes you sound like a snake (10)
6. Language spoken in Bougainville (7)
7. A keyword in Year 1 RAPS. Research is ___ (10)
9. Most spoken language in the world

The solution? Check the GloCAL society page!