

IATL Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning

The space where collaborative learning happens

INTERNATIONALISATION

Warwick aspires to be "an international beacon" by "embedding internationalism into every area of the University's mission". What does this mean for our students?

The emerging partnership between Warwick and Monash University in Australia provides a laboratory to explore this question. For example, IATL is supporting Dr Loredana Polezzi from the Department of Italian as she researches the experience of students from both institutions during their year in Italy, asking fundamental questions about the nature of that international experience.

While the opportunity to travel is welcomed by many students, it is not always appealing, or indeed possible, for others. So, we are planning "travel-free" international experiences with Monash: joint research projects, joint interdisciplinary modules on inter-cultural themes, joint publishing through *Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research* and joint student conferences.

The IATL team are already experiencing how state-of-the-art HD video conferencing systems and software for video and audio conferencing such as WebEx and Skype can support travel-free internationalisation activities, allowing us to identify the scope and limitations of these technologies for the activities we propose. Coffee and croissants are essential consumables as we deal with the time difference with Melbourne!

Importantly, IATL's work on internationalisation is firmly grounded in the experience and insight of specialists in the Centre for Applied Linguistics and the International Office as well as staff and students in departments, including those for whom life at Warwick is already an international experience. IATL aims to bring a narrative to these developments and a space where we can experiment. We look forward to your contributions.

Dr Paul Taylor, IATL Director

OPEN-SPACE LEARNING IN REAL WORLD CONTEXTS

OSL is a creative and practice-based style of teaching and learning conceived and practised at Warwick.

It emphasizes open and non-hierarchical teaching spaces (usually without tables and chairs) and an approach to learning which is collaborative and interdisciplinary. During the last two years we successfully adapted OSL for use in 12 academic departments across all University faculties, and over a thousand students have participated in OSL workshops through specific projects integrated into academic curricula or through regular OSL events held at IATL. As well as undergraduate students, postgraduate students have regularly attended OSL events and made use of an OSL forum to engage with issues of cross-disciplinary collaboration and co-authorship.



OPEN-SPACE CHEMISTRY

We were keen to test how effective OSL could be, both when exploring complex academic texts in Humanities subjects and when teaching 'hard' scientific content. Two examples from the last year were workshops for philosophy students which sought to offer an embodied means of close textual analysis, and workshops in which Chemistry students embodied chemical elements and relations from the Periodic Table. In Philosophy the students felt they

better understood the interpretative possibilities of the key text as the result of the OSL approach; in Chemistry, many students felt that the performative style of the work had helped them to remember the content better.

IATL supports OSL at Warwick and seeks to develop it in new directions. Over the course of this academic year we will see a new OSL initiative for undergraduate mathematicians studying in their second year, and we will also be developing our 'Real World' paradigm (tried with Chemistry last year) across the STEM subjects at Warwick. This extends our collaboration with Student Careers and Skills and enables OSL to respond to the student demand for professional development and employability skills. The IATL website contains an extensive resource of interviews, course descriptions and lesson plans which are there to be adopted by anyone who is interested in pursuing this new and exciting brand of teaching. <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl/projects/osl-final/>

Dr Barry Sheils, OSL Research Fellow

THE EVOLVING ENSEMBLE

During our Open-space Learning (OSL) conference in June, I presented a paper on 'The Evolving Ensemble', which outlined the unique opportunities a group of undergraduates had been given over the last two years as part of IATL's student theatrical ensemble.

They have co-created experimental drama in the CAPITAL Studio, presented that work at a New Work Festival, created a professional production in Warwick Arts Centre, observed the Clinical Skills Laboratory at the University Hospital, and contributed to the OSL event Psychiatry and Performance. These experiences have enabled the students to work beyond their home departments, in community settings and public performances. This evolving ensemble of students, incorporating nine new members this autumn, will begin a new interdisciplinary programme of workshops and events.



Elsewhere, I will be collaborating with scientists, philosophers and mathematicians to create kinaesthetic learning experiences for a wide range of students. We will be enhancing the interpersonal skills of STEM students through 'real world' activities and, in Maths, we will also be attempting to teach 'abstraction' through OSL methods. I will also be developing

creative workshops for Philosophy and Literature, English and Theatre Studies and the Warwick Business School. As IATL's Teaching Fellow I am looking forward to a busy year of practice that encourages students to seek new forms for disciplinary knowledge as well as new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Jonathan Heron, IATL Teaching Fellow

BCUR brings together undergraduate students from across the UK (and beyond) to share research through poster presentations, spoken papers, exhibitions, performances and film.



BRITISH CONFERENCE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
19th-20th March 2012

Call for Papers
This is an opportunity for students to present their dissertation, intern project or any other original research developed through the course of their studies, whatever their subject area. Staff and students are also invited to present research or case studies about the introduction of undergraduate research into modules or courses. Please see the website www.bcur.org for full submission details.
Closing Date: 4 December 2011

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

BRITISH CONFERENCE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

We are delighted to announce that Warwick will be hosting the 2012 British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR).

The inaugural BCUR was held in April 2011 in Preston and was attended by 150 students and 35 staff. The proceedings were then published by *Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research*. The 2012 conference, which will take place on 19th and 20th March in the Warwick Arts Centre, hopes to attract at least 250 delegates. This is an opportunity for students to present their dissertation, interim project or any other original research developed through the course of their studies, whatever their subject area. Staff and students are also invited to present research or case studies about the introduction of undergraduate research into modules or courses. The call for papers is already out and the deadline for the submission of abstracts is 4th December.

For more information about the conference go to www.bcur.org or email BCUR.2012@warwick.ac.uk.

IATL STAFF PROJECTS

IATL offers funding to staff for teaching and learning projects; a brief look at some of these, both completed and ongoing, showcases the innovative and distinctive work going on around the university.

Pierre-Philippe Fraiture (French) and Daniel Orrells (Classics) used our Collaboration funding to develop a project entitled 'VY Mudimbe: A Reader'. This interdisciplinary work engaged with three texts by this author which had never been translated into English; workshops facilitated by a professional translator were held, where students and staff collaborated to contextualise the work (involving both postcolonial studies and classical Greek historiography), and then to produce a translation.

Meanwhile Paul Raffield (Law) used our Pedagogic Intervention fund to run 'Lawyer Playwrights: Legal Themes and the Making of Drama', where students of Law explored the historical associations between drama and law via workshops with a professional playwright. The same fund has enabled David Wood (Maths) to propose 'Teaching Abstraction in Open Spaces'; using innovative pedagogy in an experimental mode, together with Open-space Learning.

Teresa MacKinnon (Language Centre) received one of our Academic Fellowships for her project 'Using Voice in Online Environments'. She has worked on integrating voice tools with the online environment, and the Language Centre is now ready to roll out a significantly improved user interface. The leading-edge nature of

their new platform has also enabled them to deploy an e-portfolio solution, Mahara, which will be piloted by level 5 courses at the Language Centre during the current academic year.

Dr Catherine Hanley,
IATL Academic Manager

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl/funding/staff/>



STUDENT PROJECTS

IATL offers funding of up to £1000 for students to carry out research or performance projects of their own devising, which enables them to approach their learning in new ways.



Recent research projects were spread across the faculties. They include 'evGrandPrix – Building links to Purdue University through electric kart racing' run by a group of undergraduates from Engineering who aimed to build international links and to gain an insight into the future of electric vehicles in motorsport, and 'The translation of best practices: a comparative analysis of two case studies in Italy', during which Pedro Monteiro (WBS) examined the long-term success of a best-practice approach in Italian public administration. Meanwhile, Jennifer Quigley-Jones (History) travelled to Colombia to investigate female entrepreneurship in that country, and Misa Ogura (Life Sciences) carried out the research for her project, 'One step further into the mysteries of inheritance: chromosome segregation in yeast', in a laboratory at the University of Tokyo, Japan. Luke Mason's Virtual Futures conference, co-funded by IATL, received national and international attention in the press and social media.

Equally varied were the IATL-funded performance projects. Rosanna Lyne (Philosophy) assembled a cast of students from a wide variety of departments who used her play *Fools' Gold* to explore the struggles of those on the organ donation waiting list and how this affects close family relationships. Clare Byrne (PAIS) adapted and staged TC Boyle's short story *The Lie*, depicting, with dark humour, the social and moral arguments it contains. Through his play *When it was May* Joshua Roche (English) analysed our approach to information and the ways in which the advent of the internet has altered the way in which we interact with what lies beyond our immediate world.

For more information on our student funding programmes, see <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl/funding/students/>

IATL GRANT DEADLINES

We offer grants for all Warwick staff as Academic Fellowships (to develop or revise a module or course), Pedagogic Interventions (for a one-off event which will enhance teaching and learning) and Strategic Funds for larger projects which address the University's strategic aims.

We offer grants to students under our Student as Producer strand, for performance-based and research projects and Performance Festival bursaries to showcase this work.

We encourage students and staff to work together on research projects with our Collaboration funding. For more information about these grants and how to apply, check Funding and Opportunities on the IATL website www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl/funding

STAFF FUNDING:

Pedagogic Interventions, Academic Fellowships, Strategic Projects	27 January 2012 11 May 2012
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STAFF AND STUDENT FUNDING:

Collaboration Fund	23 December 2011 5 April 2012
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STUDENT FUNDING:

Student as Producer (Research)	31 January 2012
Student as Producer (Performance)	9 December 2011 16 March 2012 21 June 2012
Performance Festival Bursaries	23 March 2012 1 June 2012

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AUTUMN TERM EVENTS

Thursday 17th November

'Interdisciplinarity in Teaching and Learning at Monash and Warwick' a live collaborative event with Monash University (CAPITAL Studio)

Thursday 24th November

Cormac McCarthy The Road workshop: an Open-space Learning event (Reinvention Centre)

Wednesday 30th November

'Student as Producer Showcase' (Millburn House Foyer)

SPRING TERM EVENTS

Wednesday 25th January

Strategy Bites: 'How is IATL contributing to Warwick's distinctiveness'

Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th March

BCUR Conference

For more information about these events and how to book for those that are open to all, check News and Events on the IATL website www.warwick.ac.uk/go/iatl/newsandevents

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