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News

Dear all

Welcome to the May edition of the RAS newsletter. I hope you are all well, it's hard to believe we are now in our 7th week of lock down.

In my experience the weeks seem to be going surprisingly fast, (which is good and bad). I remember reading something about the perception of time and have just re-checked this. According to David Eagleman, neuroscientist at Stanford University (Guggenheim Fellowship, Science Educator of the Year), we process familiar information fairly quickly, but when new information is introduced it takes our minds much longer to reorganise and synthesize; making the experience more memorable. So we have much stronger memories of our 'firsts', from fresh and new experiences and why when reflecting in later life older adults can generally remember more about the experiences between 15 and 25 years of age (the reminiscence bump) than for other periods of their life. So as my days at the moment are so, so very similar, the script is similar and time is flashing by. Let's hope it's not too long until we can all experience the 'first day back on campus'. I think that will be quite significant.

In this edition there is an update from the Public Engagement team, the Exchange Journals and details of some virtual coaching and support, and online learning events facilitated by the Organisational Development team. If there is any additional support you would benefit from at this point in time do drop me a line at researcherqueries@warwick.ac.uk

Finally, I want to make an apology for any unintended concern or upset caused by a link in our last newsletter to the Covid-19 funding page and the use of the word 'opportunities', which is an inappropriate association to make at this time of great loss and hardship across the world. Our intent was to make you aware of external research where you could potentially share your expertise and play your part in a collective response to addressing the pandemic.

Best wishes
Trudie Donnelly
Organisational Development Director



Message from Pam Thomas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Many thanks to those who have provided feedback to Pam Thomas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, following her article last month. There are a few more days left to share your views via the webpage link below. Pam will then review and respond as best she can.



<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/od/ras/community/stay-connected>

Dear colleagues

I hope you are all well and finding your own way to work through this particularly challenging time.

I am committed that throughout this we stay as connected as possible as a Research community, so we are able to support each other and are able to continue to deliver world class research.

As a useful starting point I would like to understand more about your main research related concerns at this point in time. If you would like to share your views please submit your thoughts by completing the [form](#) and I will review these and respond as best I can.

Best wishes
Pam

Research Staff Forum

Date & time: **Wed 13 May 2020**, 12 noon—13:00

Venue: Virtual (Zoom meeting)

The RSF provides the opportunity for RAS to meet RAS staff from other departments giving a chance to discuss issues relevant to their research, share practice, update themselves with University wide research news together with forthcoming L&D events/workshops. It provides a two way communication in relation to research related issues, as there is a representative at the Research Committee and also input into the relevant institutional charters.

Please confirm asap if you wish to attend by emailing researcherqueries@warwick.ac.uk



New & Featured

Public Engagement Network

Public Engagement Resources from the Being Human Festival Team

The Being Human Festival Team wanted to share a range of new [training resources](#) and [case studies](#) that their team has recently developed. These are full of useful ideas, tips and tricks to help plan and deliver a successful public engagement event based on arts and humanities research.

We strongly encourage you to take a look at these if you're thinking of taking part in this year's [Being Human Festival](#), which should be going ahead from the **12 November** this year and for which the call for contributions is currently open.

These resources may also come in handy if you're planning a public engagement event at another point in the year.

Further information from the Public Engagement Team

We would still love to know if you're managing to engage with the wider public during lockdown and social distancing. Have you adapted to digital methods rather than face-to-face events? How are you still working with your community partners and fellow researchers while working from home (where possible!)?

Please keep in touch with any advice and tips you may have about digital engagement, continuing your projects and research that may help others trying to keep engaging. Also, if you are planning to take part in any festivals or events later in the year

that are currently still scheduled to go ahead please share with us when and how.

The team are available for virtual catch up's during our regular drop-in time of Wednesday's 1pm-3pm. We hope you are prioritising the health of yourself and those around you during this unprecedented time, keep safe and well.

For further information on public engagement, please visit their [website](#) and/or contact [Emily Little](#).



New & Featured

Library

UKRI Open Access Policy Consultation: feedback welcomed

As highlighted in last month's newsletter, UK Research and Innovation, the national funding agency for science and research in the UK, is consulting on a proposed new Policy on Open Access for the research funded by its Research Councils. This will also inform the development of the OA Policy for the REF after REF 2021.

The University will be submitting an institutional response to the consultation and is looking for input from the Warwick research community. Due to Covid-19, the deadline for submissions has been extended until **29 May 2020** and we will be collecting feedback until Friday **15 May 2020**, so there is still time to send your comments on the proposal. If you would like to contribute, you can read the full [consultation document](#) on the UKRI website. Please send feedback or questions to openaccessfund@warwick.ac.uk.

Accessing electronic resources

The Library is continuing to add to its e-resources collections whilst physical access to the building is restricted and any new acquisitions will appear in [Library Search](#). Many publishers are also opening up access to additional subscription content free of charge during the crisis. Jisc have compiled a comprehensive list of [publishers who are widening access to their online content](#) and we have also compiled a list of [additional resources specific to Warwick](#) and how to access them. However, if there are resources that you are having difficulty accessing, please get in touch with your [Academic Support Librarian](#).

For general tips and advice on accessing digital resources, visit our [Using the Library to learn and teach remotely](#) page. Library Support during the coronavirus outbreak is also collected together on our [Covid-19 and Library Services](#) page.

Researcher Development from the Library

The Library's Scholarly Communications team are currently developing a series of online courses and webinars to replace our programme of face-to-face workshops on Communicating Your Research and Research Data Management, plus a brand new course on Copyright for Research and Teaching. The first modules, on communicating your research, will be released during the week commencing **11 May** and will be advertised through the Research Active Staff [Current Development Opportunities](#) page. Other modules will follow throughout Term 3.

Staying connected

A reminder that our Postgraduate Community Engagement Team [have moved many of their activities online](#) and are running virtual versions of Research Refresh and Write Here, Right Now, which are open to all researchers.



New & Featured

Exchanges Journal: An Interdisciplinary Title Seeking Early Career Researcher Submissions

The interdisciplinary research journal, Exchanges, has been successfully published by Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) since 2013. Initially spun out of the IAS's acclaimed early career fellows programme, today the peer-reviewed, open access, scholar-led, international research journal continues to be run primarily by and for early career researchers. A [Managing Editor-in-Chief \(EIC\)](#), Dr Gareth J Johnson, is employed by the IAS to support its operation and development, with technical facilitation provided by the university library's scholarly communication team.

Exchanges has three key missions it seeks to address. Firstly, in line with the cultural imperative of the IAS, it seeks to facilitate a quality-assured forum where early career scholars can contribute to an interdisciplinary discourse. Secondly, the title operates an enabling editorial environment, meaning journal contributors are helped to develop their authorial, reviewing and editorial skills. Thirdly, the title strives to facilitate contributors' developing professional visibility once they achieve publication. Alongside publishing the journal, meeting these objectives has led to the journal engaging with various training, and outreach activities. It has also seen it take on a practical editorial mentoring role, through enabling editorial participation opportunities among the post-graduate researcher community. This has been particularly evidenced during the production of special themed issues.

Since its creation Exchanges itself has evolved, with a key aspect of this maturation in recent years being the reconfiguration of its Editorial Board to move beyond a, somewhat, Warwick-centric nature. This is in keeping with its contents, which continue to attract emerging authors from around the world. The Editorial Board too now incorporates scholars from an increasing number of the university's global partner institutions. This diversity within the Board Members is essential, as alongside the vital,

practical contribution each makes, Board members also provide the EIC with scholarly publications insights from their own disciplinary domains.

The journal, normally published twice annually, has always incorporated a wide range of material: from peer-reviewed articles, through critical reflections, opinion pieces and essays to interviews with notable scholars. Excitingly, the first in a series of planned special themed issues appeared in January 2020 ([Cannibalism: Vol 7\(2\)](#)), to considerable acclaim, with future special issues dealing with issues like climate fiction (cli-fi) and fictional representations of nerds are anticipated for 2021. Special issues represent a new and exciting future development of Exchanges' role and visibility within the global academy, especially because each one represents direct collaborations with scholars both at Warwick and other research-intensive universities.

There are currently a number of opportunities for researchers to contribute to the title, included both themed and open calls for submissions. [Full details of these calls](#), targeted at, but not limited to, early career and post-graduate researchers from all disciplines can be found online.

Alternatively, to find out more about Exchanges, discuss potential contributions or even explore potential special issues, then [contact the Editor-in-Chief](#) (gareth.johnson@warwick.ac.uk) directly, or speak to any member of the Board. Alternatively, readers can explore our extensive social media presence via our [blog](#), [Linked In](#) and [twitter](#).



Development & Support Opportunities



Research careers

If coaching is the answer, what was the question?

Consider your reactions to the following:

- ⇒ when was the last time someone asked you a question about something so important to you, that you wanted to answer with your heart and soul?
- ⇒ how many conversations are actually serving the need to talk about your future and your career, without fear of judgment about motivation, tenacity or commitment?
- ⇒ are you facing an important decision and feel 'stuck' between a rock and a hard place, neither of which feel like the right option?
- ⇒ how do you think you would feel if you could talk openly about your career thoughts, fears and doubts, and reach some conclusions by the end of that time that you were confident that you could put into place?

Simply put, coaching is time devoted entirely to you, your thoughts and your development, completely personalised and tailored to your context. It involves a careful blend of listening and well-chosen questions to guide you towards possibility, action and opportunity. And when we add in the worldwide impact of COVID-19, taking time to think during a time of uncertainty (which none of us chose) could be a very wise investment of your time.

Coaching is for you if:

- ⇒ you need time to focus and shine so you can make the best use of limited time
- ⇒ you've been thinking about your career options for a while, know you need to take some next steps, but aren't sure where to start

- ⇒ you're curious about trying out new ideas and are looking for an impartial sounding board to see which ones are worth pursuing
- ⇒ you've been in the same situation for so long that you can't see yourself any other way
- ⇒ you're fiercely ambitious and need to hear yourself say it
- ⇒ you're worried about the impact of COVID-19 on your career prospects
- ⇒ you need some feedback on your strengths, priorities and motivations

If any of these sound like productive use of an hour to focus in uncertain times, please visit https://warwick.ac.uk/services/od/ras/opportunities/1_1support/

A Virtual Welcome to Warwick

Joining a new workplace can bring a range of emotions. Coronavirus and the need to maintain social distancing means that most of you are joining a virtual community. We appreciate this will create extra and unique challenges and that getting up to speed will most likely take a bit longer.

If you've started a new job with the University [here's a welcoming message](#) from Vice-Chancellor, Stuart Croft.

Virtual course availability

Looking to be inspired?

Online Academic Writing—Unlock your Creativity workshop

[Creativity and ideas generation for writing](#)—Tues 19 May

The focus of this virtual workshop taking place on **Tuesday 19 May** is to enhance and develop your creative thinking to support your writing practice. When we think and feel creatively, our words flow better, we construct and frame our research better and improve the quality of our writing overall.

Academic Writing - Retreat 'Bootcamp'

Need a renewed focus or discipline for your academic writing? [Sign up](#) for the virtual [Academic Writing - Retreat 'Bootcamp'](#) taking place on **2 and 3 July**.

Careers advice from the comfort of your living room

The new Research Careers 5 Series consists of 2-hour sessions designed to give you structured thinking time and tools and support to increase your employability, map and manage your career, improve your CV and hone your interview skills. The virtual sessions listed are taking place in May and June, via Zoom.

- ⇒ [Finding a career that fits you](#) —Tues 12 May
- ⇒ [Making an impact in CVs and applications](#) —Wed 3 June
- ⇒ [Making an impact in interviews](#) —Wed 24 June

If you have any questions regarding the sessions, please email researcherqueries@warwick.ac.uk

Guidance & resources for working from home

Designed to provide information, simple tips and approaches to support you as individuals whilst working from home. Covering the essential topics of wellbeing, dealing with change, resilience, planning and prioritising.

- ⇒ [One to one support](#)
- ⇒ [Guidance and advice for staff](#)
- ⇒ [Guidance and advice for managers](#)
- ⇒ [Coaching : online](#)

Coding & software development

Online courses and virtual drop-in support available to start up or advance your skills

With more time working from home, you may be thinking about starting to learn some software development to further your research or to learn a new skill. However, getting started is often difficult and can be daunting. To help, we have compiled a list of excellent free online training courses that will help you to learn the basics of programming.

For more information please click [here](#). If you have any questions, please email Chris and Heather at RSE@warwick.ac.uk.

